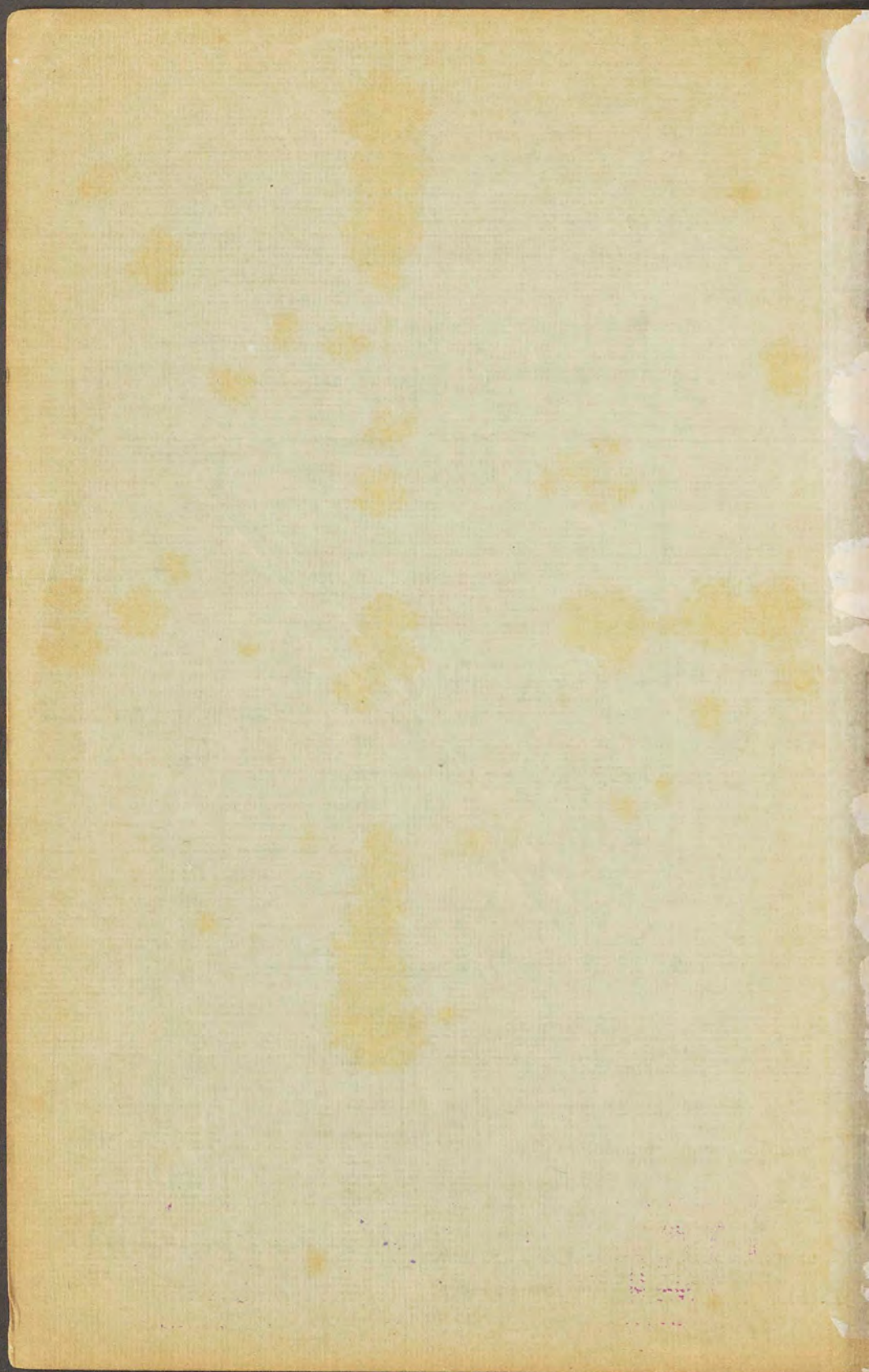




# KIMBERLEY

An  
Official  
Souvenir



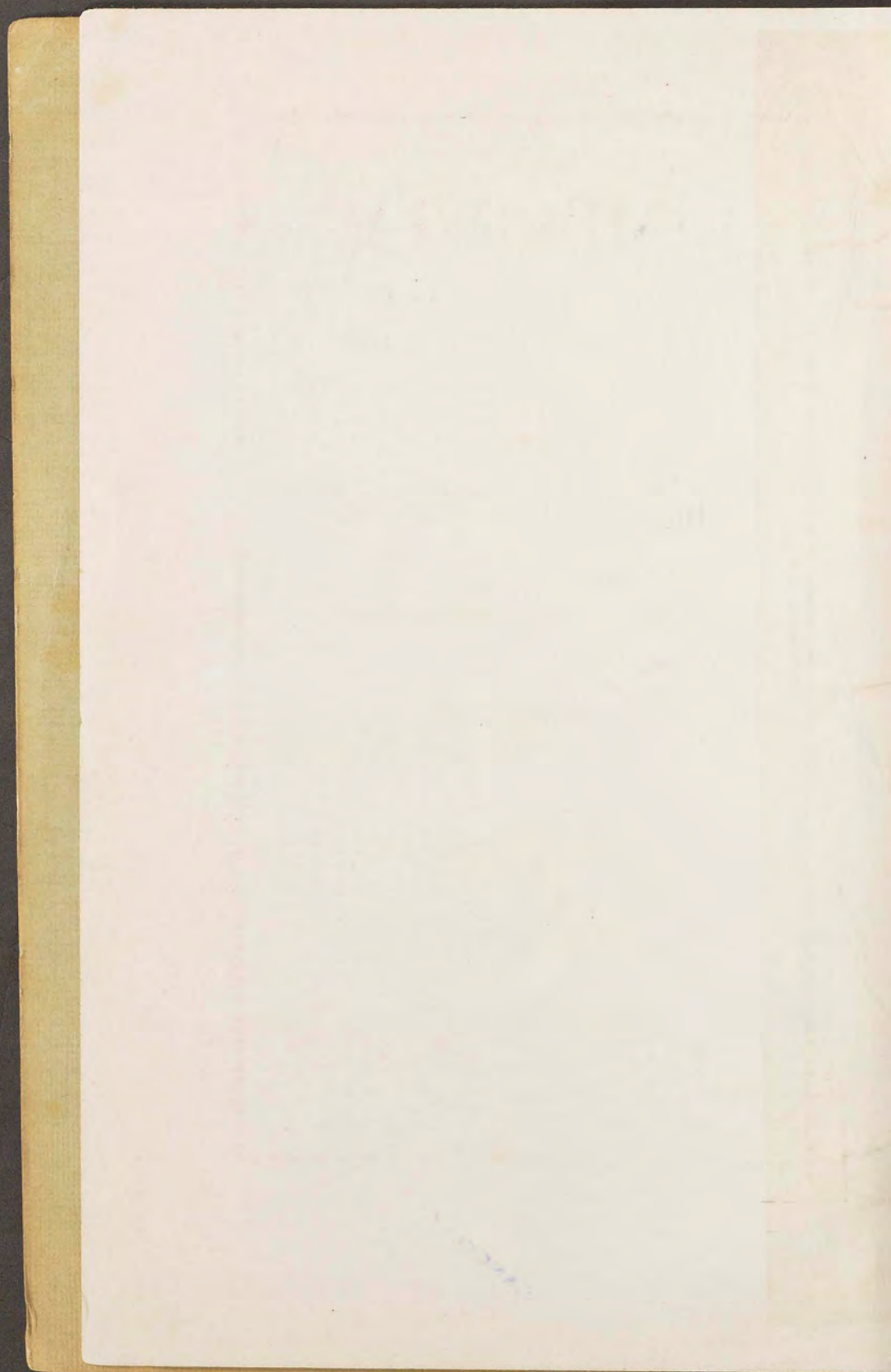


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# KIMBERLEY :

ITS HISTORY AND DIAMONDS,  
WITH SUMMARY OF THE SIEGE.

## Illustrated Handbook

Issued under the auspices of the  
Municipality of the City of Kimberley.

Prepared and Edited by

ARTHUR J. BEET,

Mayor's Secretary.



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KIMBERLEY :

Diamond Fields Advertiser, Limited, Stockdale Street.

1914.



*Photo by*

*Middlebrook's Studio,*

Cecil John Rhodes.



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## Foreword.

By ADVOCATE S. BRAITHWAITE KITCHIN.

Editor of the "South African Law Journal."

The late Sir Richard Southey, when Colonial Secretary of the Cape, placing on the table of the House of Assembly the second notable diamond found—the famous "Star of South Africa," now in the possession of the Countess of Dudley—said: "This is the rock on which the future success of South Africa will be built." These prophetic words have been realised, as every reader of South African history knows, for not only did the discovery of the Diamond Fields save the whole country from bankruptcy, but it is principally from Kimberley that the torch of civilisation has been carried to the Goldfields and pasture lands that lie to the north.

The object of this hand-book is to give, in an age of advertisement, an accurate and popular account, with representative illustrations, of the city which is built upon the hardest rock the earth can produce, its history, people, and institutions, such as may be of interest and use, not only to actual, probable and possible visitors, but also to its own residents. The history of Kimberley, like its topography, is in many respects unique. Both have grown from and around the mines and "floors," which have a picturesqueness of their own. The writer has been very careful not to include, in his necessarily compressed account of one of the longest sieges on record, anything which might tend in the remotest degree to reopen wounds which, it is hoped, are long since healed. Though not its only claim to fame, the Siege of Kimberley is a fact in the City's history which is perhaps only less interesting to the outer world than its great Diamond Industry. It would clearly have been impossible in a book of this kind, even to account for and describe some of its most noteworthy places of interest, without

telling the stirring story of the days when, in the words of the then Mayor in his famous despatch to Lord Roberts, which will be new to many of Mr. Beet's readers, "the chief food of the whites has been bread and horseflesh for a long time past, and of the blacks meal and salt only."

The most important and interesting local institution, however—the *raison d'être* of the place—is the Diamond Industry, with its younger brethren, Commerce and Agriculture, all of which are given their appropriate places in the following pages. Much careful research has been made by the writer into sources which are not open to, and some of them not even known to, the ordinary public—written records in public and private offices, in the diaries, and, not the least, in the vanishing memories of living men who came in ox-wagons, and have many an interesting story of the entrance, life, and exit of the diamond digger in the early seventies, and of all that has happened since those days.

This handbook should interest the visitor who wishes to learn in a small compass and without waste of time, all about everything that he may be able to see during his sojourn, which this book may be the means of bringing about or extending, for the benefit of the inhabitants. It should also be of direct use to residents, as an accurate and permanent local record, in a convenient form, of events and facts which the citizen of Kimberley should not willingly let die. It is written with an enthusiasm and a love of his city which may haply arouse kindred feelings in others, some of whom, through no fault except perhaps the absence hitherto of an adequate book of this nature, may have erroneous prepossessions against the City as a place of interest or of business. In the settled conditions of modern Kimberley, with its daily supplies of necessities and luxuries, brought in by rail and by motor-car, its abundant water-supply, its gardens and homes, and its general healthiness, which are all the pride of its citizens, and the care of its enterprising City Council, it is well to be reminded how these things have arisen from entirely different beginnings. Nothing of importance has been omitted relating to any local institution which may excite the curiosity of the visitor, and give him or her an adequate idea of what the City of Kimberley has been, is, and ought to be.



# KIMBERLEY:

## ITS DIAMONDS AND HISTORY.

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*"At the head, not only of precious stones, but of all human riches, stands the Diamond, which for a long time was known only to Kings, and to but few of them."*—PLINY.

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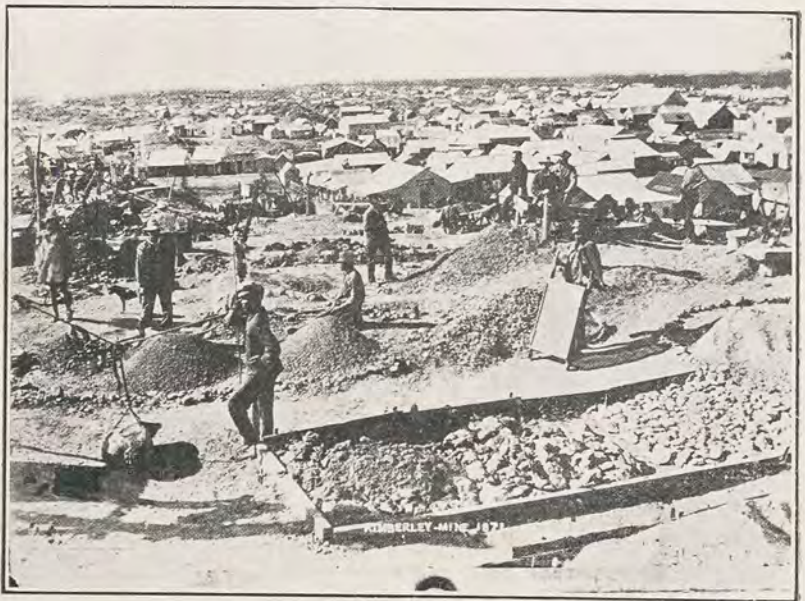
The City of Kimberley (formerly known as Kimberley. New Rush or Colesberg Kopje), is named after the late Earl of Kimberley, Secretary of State for the British Colonies in the early seventies of last century. It is the capital of Griqualand West, is situated 647 miles from Cape Town, 309 miles from Johannesburg, 608 miles from Durban, 105 miles from Bloemfontein, and its elevation above sea level is 4,012 feet. The total population, all races, including the natives in the compounds, is approximately 53,643.

The Beginnings. Less than half a century ago dwellers near the coast dimly contemplated the territory north of the Orange River as a "region of emptiness howling and drear," a mysterious sort of "No Man's Land," unexplored except by hunters, traders, a few missionaries, and Boer trekkers. The present site of Kimberley was in the year 1870 represented in a photograph by a thorn tree, a Bushman and a kopje.

The First Diamonds. About the year 1867 a trader, named John O'Reilly, obtained possession of a "white stone," the plaything of the children of a poor farmer living on the north side of the Orange River. This baby's plaything was afterwards forwarded to Dr. W. "Guybon" Atherstone, of Grahamstown, who pronounced it to be a diamond of the first water, and the then Governor of the Cape, Sir Philip Wodehouse, purchased it for £500. Tremendous excitement followed, and many thousands of able-bodied men became badly infected with an attack of "Diamond Fever" and swarmed to the vicinity of the Vaal River, where other "finds" had since been made; these Alluvial Workings after a brief period covered an extent of over 100 miles.

Great  
Events.

The sudden discovery of "Dry Diggings," as distinct from "Alluvial Workings," at Du Toit's Pan, at Bultfontein, and then at De Beers, accentuated the excitement, and the news of the discovery of the Kimberley Mine on Sunday, 16th July, 1871, enticed practically all the diggers to desert the banks of the Vaal, and precipitated the inrush of a mighty torrent of fortune hunters from Cape Colony and Natal, and all parts of the globe. The population in a short space of time numbered upwards of 50,000. Hence it is not inappropriate to say that the thorn tree was turned into fuel for domestic needs, the Bushman disappeared into the Kalahari, and the kopje was wiped off the face of the earth. The



Kimberley, 1871.

yawning cavity of the Kimberley Mine now marks the site of the vanished "Kopje," as it is still called, and this may aptly be described as one of the wonders of the modern world. Gems of fabulous wealth continue to be extracted from the depths beneath.

On the discovery of precious minerals, the Republic of the Orange Free State claimed dominion over the newly-discovered diggings: they were also claimed by a Griqua Chief, Nicholas Waterboer, as a portion of his possessions, but of which the boundary had never been defined. On the 27th October, 1871,

Disputed  
Territory.



after protracted negotiations, Waterboer's territory, including the diamond area, was proclaimed a British Province, under the name of Griqualand West. However, some time later, the Government of the Orange Free State was granted a solatium of £90,000, and Waterboer, by way of recompense, was allowed a pension of £1,000 per year.



Nicholas Waterboer, Grika Chief.

Vooruitzigt — "Prospect" — (literally "Front outlook" or "Looking forward") is the name of the farm on which the Kimberley Mine and also the De Beers Mine, one small corner excepted, are situated, and it was disposed of by Mynheeren De Beer to Messrs. Dunell, Ebdon & Co., of Port Elizabeth, for the ridiculously small sum of £6,000, who in turn sold it to the Government for £100,000. The original grant and title deed of Vooruitzigt Estate in favour of D. A. and J. N. de Beer bore date of the 27th December, 1863, and its first transfer was dated 19th October, 1871 (*after* the discovery of the two mines within its boundaries), and the subsequent sale to the Government of Griqualand West took effect from the 1st July, 1875. The area of this most valuable property is 7,750 morgen 391 square roods. It is interesting to note that the agent of sale in the last dated transaction was the

Right Honourable J. X. Merriman, who for many years has figured as one of the most able and best respected politicians of this country.

Kimberley's Baptism. A Government proclamation, No. 22, 1873, dated 5th July, 1873, and promulgated in a Government Gazette Extraordinary on the 18th July, 1873, set forth that "... the encampment and town heretofore variously known as De Beers New Rush, the Colesberg Kopje number two, or Vooruitzicht, shall henceforth be and be designated the town of Kimberley. . . ."

A New Era. Kimberley first saw the light of day in a period of serious depression from which the whole Colony was feeling the pinch very sorely, and when even the Free State and Transvaal were bordering on financial starvation, and she came as a child of Providence. The discovery of diamonds, almost in a night created a City out of the veld, it produced sufficient wealth to set the old Colony on its feet again, and to bring prosperity where ruin must inevitably have supervened. Kimberley to-day is the second largest City in the Cape Province, and it can lay proud claim to the biggest diamond industry in the world.

The Early Camps. The Dry Diggings in their earliest stages presented an unforgettable appearance. As far as the eye could reach the extensive panorama was flat and unrelieved, save where a few low-lying kopjes broke the line of the horizon. Tents innumerable covered the site of the coming Metropolis of Griqualand West in wild profusion that defied description, and reminiscent of the forty years' sojourn of the Israelites in the wilderness. At night the camps seemed larger than by day, and the lights appeared to extend for miles. Many diggers at the rich "Colesberg Kopje" preferred to live at Du Toit's Pan, or De Beers, on account of less crowding of tents, and greater convenience and cheapness of wood, water, etc.; consequently there was ample employment for the different omnibuses, carts, and other vehicles which ran between "Colesberg Kopje," Du Toit's Pan, and De Beers. The roads, at sundown especially, were crowded with vehicles of every description, which were drawn by all sorts of animals. When mining work ceased, at sunset, the roads became thronged with thousands of diggers in every variety of costume, and thousands upon thousands of natives in very little costume at all; the scene, as can be imagined, was one of great animation. The publicans did a thriving trade on Saturday afternoons in dispensing "chained lightning" to the natives; the result was pandemonium. The streets were filled with hordes of drunken, brawling natives, and the frequent horrible fighting witnessed was the direct cause of innumerable deaths.



The First  
Diggers.

In the Camp and in the Mine there was a most heterogeneous assemblage of humanity; white men of all nations, and natives of many tribes. The white men were of all ranks—the sailor jostled the erstwhile captain, the university man swung his pick side by side with the navy, and blue-blooded Cholmondeley slept in his sheepskin kaross side by side with the humble Jones. Yet, away from the restraints of civilisation never could there have been gathered together a finer, more enterprising, hardy, and liberal-minded race of pioneers—men who could take prosperity and adversity with equanimity—men who never forgot the Heaven-born rule of hospitality to “strangers within their gates”; in fact, men worthy of the best British traditions. Industrious, sober of habit, they were, as a community, noted for manly integrity, justice, and honesty in their mutual dealings; their generosity and readiness to help wherever it was needed were proverbial. Crime was a rarity, although from the unguarded way in which tents and wagons were left for hours together, opportunities were not lacking to any who might feel tempted. At this period the cost of the journey from the coast to the Diamond Fields was not less than £20 per passenger; the springless vehicles, and the roads they traversed, were vile beyond description; consequently, the expense and difficulty of reaching the Fields, even from the nearest towns in the Cape Colony, effectually prevented the advent of rogues and loafers.

The Diggers  
at Work.

The diggers worked very hard indeed, from sunrise to sunset. “From the vast amphitheatre scooped in the rock, there rose in the air the clicking of picks, the rasp and clatter of shovels, the thud of bucketfalling, the creaking of windlasses, the tramp over planks, the rolling of carts, the lowing of bullocks, the braying of mules, mingled with calls, and chatter and chants of whites and blacks in an indescribable din.” There were occasionally incidents of communal concern. Portions or sides of claims frequently slipped in, and a considerable number of lives were lost by diggers and their labourers being buried beneath such landslips. The curious visitor would frequently be startled by a loud hurrah or confused shout; he would see many diggers running to a certain spot, on reaching which he would probably find that a “big ‘un” had just been turned up; but even more frequently, it would be a cart with a couple of mules or oxen which had toppled over and fallen into the mine, the side of a roadway between the claims having unexpectedly “caved in.”

Scarcity of  
Water.

The drawback at the diggings, which was severely felt, was the want of water. Practically none existed, excepting the meagre supply from Du Toit's Pan, nowadays called “Wesselton Pan,” and from a few fountains that speedily dried up. Nothing more uninviting can be imagined than a



draught of Du Toit's Pan water, polluted as it was by all the animals in the camp, and by the rotten carcasses of oxen and other creatures lying half-submerged in the mud and slime on its marge. Yet that water sold in Kimberley at 2s. 6d. per bucket. Sometimes the diggers had to satisfy themselves with a wash from the contents of a bottle of soda-water, imported from Capetown. Later on, water was carted to the diggings from adjacent farms. When the coating of grime grew unbearable, the diggers rode or tramped to the Vaal, at least 16 miles distant, and cleansed themselves in the limpid water of the river.

The dust storms experienced in the primitive days were of a fiendish nature. Their advance was harbingered by a saffron coloured sky, quickly followed by a whole cyclone of red dust, usually from the direction of the great Kalahari desert, which searchingly insinuated itself into every digger's domicile, whether wood, iron, or canvas. Existence was almost intolerable, for the dust, which penetrated nook, cranny, and crevice, was inhaled in the air the diggers breathed, clogged every pore of their bodies, until life was almost dried up at its source, contaminated the food they ate, and brought to shabbiness their attire. An early writer describes how, in one particular storm, half the population of the Fields had to hold on by poles and ropes like grim death to preserve their domiciles during the time the storm lasted, whilst even then bell tents were blown down by the score, and he ventured the opinion—not without reason—that the dust of the Dry Diggings was to be classed with plague, famine, and pestilence.

Owing to the phenomenal growth of the camp, and the want of proper sanitation, the diggers, in addition to the other excessive hardships which they were compelled to endure, were subjected to tempestuous plagues of flies, little and big, and black and green, which swarmed over the camp in the summer season in countless myriads; they tainted every morsel of food, settled on every bare face or body, with a dash so bold, persistent, and a grip so malignant, that it hurt like a sting. Fleas were also a considerable source of annoyance.

The want of good food and pure water, the plagues of flies and fleas, the dust, frequently rising from the ankle-deep sand in the streets, and the entire absence of sanitation, brought on ravaging fevers, disease, and ill-health to even the strongest men, and the death-rate was abnormally high.

Few of the diggers of the seventies doubted their ability to make a "pile" within a few months, or even a year or two. None looked upon the camp as a permanent abiding place, and it followed that the future city was lamentably ordered and

aligned. The buildings were irregular, and next door to a corrugated iron structure might be seen a hovel made out of the old tin and wood of packing-cases. The Post Office was ironically called an "inverted paraffin tin."

Before the end of the year 1871, there were by actual count in Kimberley's "lower street"—probably the present Southey Street—six stores, four hotels, butchers' and shoemakers' shops, a billiard-room, and a saloon. On the "upper street"—Old Main Street—there were three hotels, several diamond merchants' offices, provision stores, confectioners' and druggists' shops, eating-houses, club and billiard-rooms, and other miscellaneous resorts, and this number is said to have been more than doubled within a month after the above counting took place.

#### Early Morning Market.

Early rising was a feature of life in Kimberley, and the morning market was a sight never to be forgotten. Every morning a miscellaneous assortment of ox-wagons crowded the spacious Market Square, bringing great quantities of produce from the Orange Free State and other distant places; heavy loads of wood from the back



Early Morning Fruit and Vegetable Market, 1914.

country, and springboks and other game from the veld. Whilst the sales on the morning market were in progress, one might catch a glimpse of "Cecil Rhodes, with his hands deep in his jacket pockets, going silent and thoughtful to the club for breakfast; or J. B. Robinson hurrying to his office in Old Main Street, helmeted, and carrying an umbrella; or poor 'Barney' Barnato, joyously chatting to half-a-dozen friends as he passed on to his business."



Off to Johannesburg. Subsequent to the discovery of Johannesburg, a "Mayor's Minute," after recording the fact that a number of old residents and heads of business houses had left Kimberley for Johannesburg, and other up-country centres, many of whom had been connected with the Diamond Fields from their infancy, ends as follows:—"Although the glory of Kimberley for the time being may be dimmed as compared with the dazzling prospects of wealth in more favoured parts in the north—secured to us by the enterprise of Kimberley men and money—I firmly believe that Kimberley will continue to hold its own as one of the most important centres in South Africa."



*Photo by*

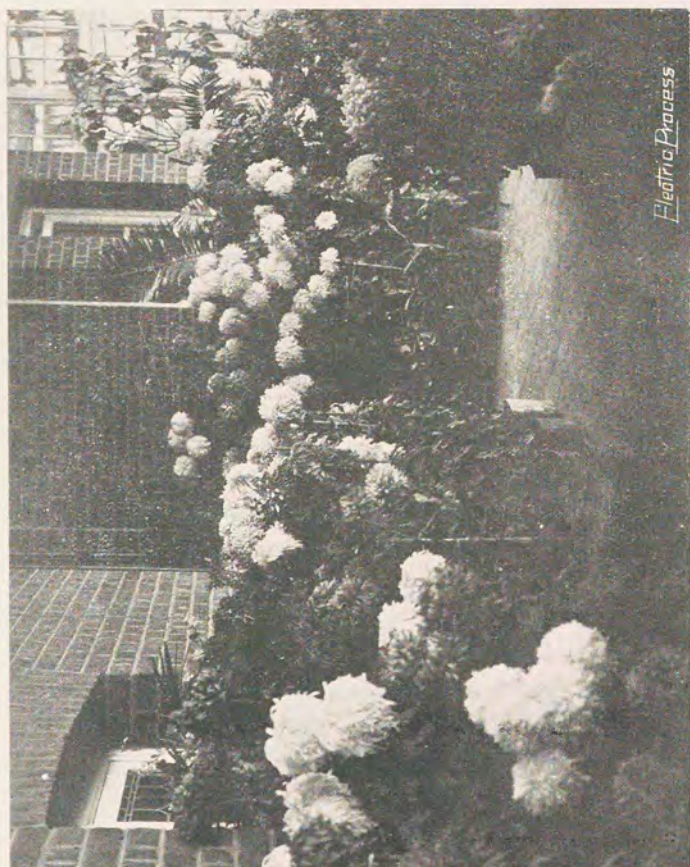
*Middlebrook's Studio.*

"Debris Washing" for Diamonds on the site of the present St. John's Church



## Kimberley---A Modern City.

The excessive hardships and trials which the early inhabitants of the Diamond Fields were compelled to endure have already been described, yet in order to make a contrast it is necessary to again draw attention to the time when the buildings of wood and iron were devoid of any softening or beautifying surroundings; when every tree and bush had been cut down, and the veld, once dotted with tall thorn-trees, had become a vast expanse of wind-swept dust, as grey as the iron dwellings, which alone seemed to convert a desert into a town; when water was only obtainable from wells here and there, or was hawked through the streets at prices which now seem fabulous. Water, an ample supply of water, was necessary before Kimberley could be converted into a desirable place of residence.



*Electric Process*

Chrysanthemums from a Kimberley Garden, 1914.

### Water from the Vaal.

The modern age of Kimberley may therefore be said to have begun when the water of the Vaal was brought to the doors of the householders. What a marvellous change was wrought in a short space of time by the introduction of an abundance of pure water! The bright flower gardens, and the thousands of stately trees, which now break what was once a dull grey monotony, are the result of the water supply which has done so much to change the aspect of this mining metropolis. True, there is dust as of yore, but it is only occasional, and is not for a moment comparable to the fierce simoon which long ago used to tear itself along the unmade streets.

### A General Transformation.

Kimberley has undergone a great transformation. Evidences of this meet the eye at every turn. The one-time sandy streets have been macadamised, and neatly-kerbed; in the more central parts granolithic side-channels have been laid down, and the street surfaces have been tarred. The construction of underground drains for disposing of storm-water from some of the busiest streets, entailing an expense of thousands of pounds, is at present in progress. Standholders have gradually pulled down their shanties; in many instances to wash the rich diamond-bearing ground underneath, which the pioneer diggers threw aside in their carelessness or ignorance, and the proceeds have often provided the wherewithal to erect a substantial residence. Just as the canvas-tent made way for the iron shanty, so the shanty has in turn shrunk before a building epidemic which has resulted in the establishment of many well-designed and comfortable homes. South and south-east, hundreds of new dwellings have reared themselves out of the veld, and at present new buildings, of which any City may be proud, are springing up round and about the Honoured Dead Memorial, which, by the way, is now almost the only sign that Kimberley passed through a severe and trying siege.

### Kimberley's Fascination.

Old Kimberleyites who left Kimberley twenty or thirty years ago, to discover other minerals in the Transvaal, or further northwards, or to go and try to enjoy a fortune in the Old Country, when they return—and somehow they always do return—are at once struck by the orderliness and the wonderful improvements. There is only the same old hospitality of the people to remind them of the Kimberley which gave them a start in life. The people of Kimberley took a longish time to appreciate the fact that the dear old City was worth living in, and worth making more habitable, but now that the fact has been recognised the comfort of the place is being increased at a rapid pace.

### Other Features.

The shops of the City delight the hearts of the ladies; observant visitors from the Transvaal and Natal will notice, after a casual glance at the names displayed over the local shops and stores, that many of the large businesses in those two Provinces have been



the outcrop of firms with headquarters at Kimberley. The theatre is well-patronised by a public up-to-date in its tastes. The Public Library is one of the best equipped in South Africa. The Museum has some unique exhibits, and specialises in Bushman paintings and engravings. The Athenaeum lectures and debates are of no mean order, and the Society has many embryo politicians amongst its adherents. The Schools are as excellent as any in this country. The local Volunteer Band can hold its own against all comers. The tram fares are the cheapest in the Union. In the winter months there are frequent dances, both private and public. The mining works and the battlefields at and near Kimberley are famous the world over. Finally, there is that branch of public recreation of which Kimberley has long been the nucleus and monitor of the northern parts of South Africa—athletics.

**Athletics.** The facilities for athletics, which are fostered by the men of wealth, with that same enthusiasm which urges some millionaires in America and even lately in South Africa, to endow universities, hospitals, and libraries, give a wonderful healthiness of moral and physical tone to the young men of Kimberley. Books could be written on the glorious achievements in sports and pastimes by both the past and the rising generation, but let it suffice to say that in this clear, beautiful atmosphere, football, cricket, golf, bowling and tennis, and other out-door games can be enjoyed practically all the year round. Kimberley has ceased to be a mining town; it is a modern City, well-governed, well-situated, bathed in perpetual sunshine, and enjoying during at least five months of the year a climate which, were it as widely known as it deserves, would annually bring swarms of visitors in search of health and recuperation.

**Generous Impulses.** Modern Kimberley shows traces of its earlier history in certain features which may be almost called distinctive. Not only in modes of speech which still survive, but in a certain ease of manner, a liberal hospitality, a lavish kindness when any case of distress or need appeals for help, Kimberley still possesses the free, generous impulses of the days when men thought little of money and gave it readily when asked.



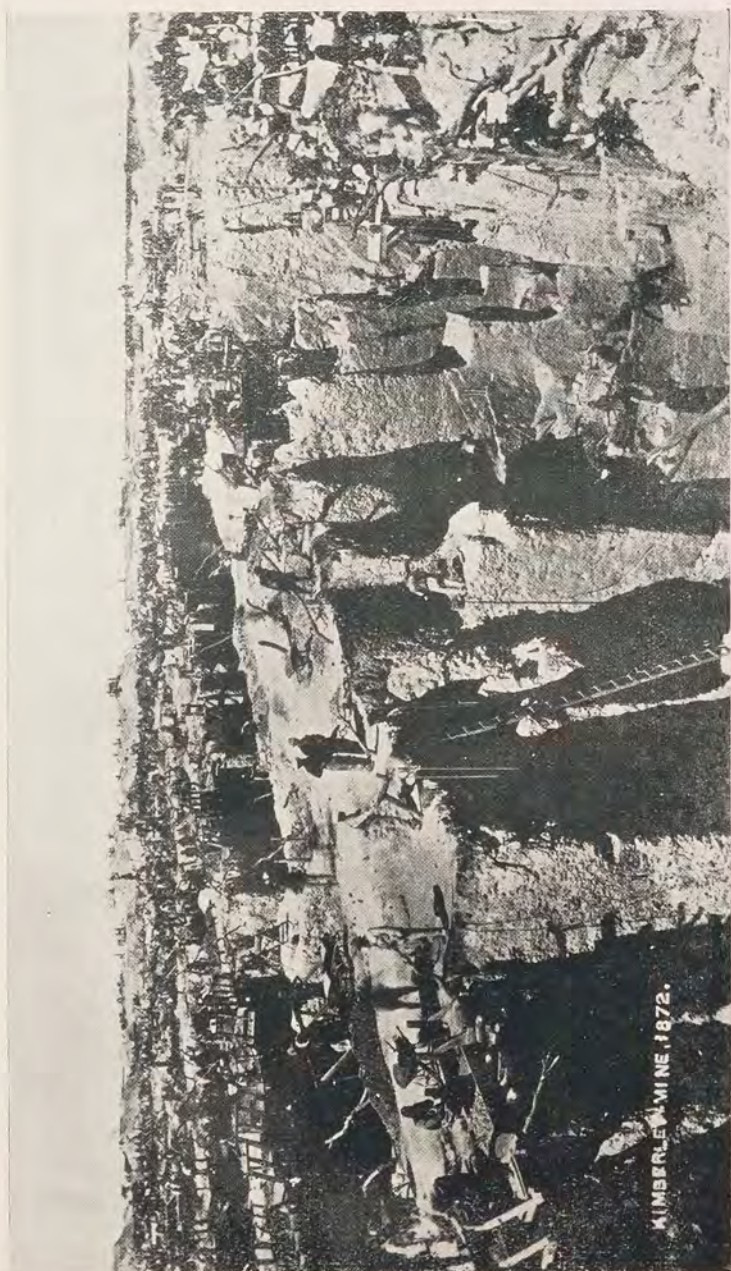
## The Kimberley Mine.

The Mine. Kimberley Mine, four minutes' walk from the City Hall, was discovered by Fleetwood Rawstorne, of Colesberg, on the 16th July, 1871, and has proved itself to be absolutely the richest Diamond Mine in the world. At the outset it was never dreamt that the mine would be a permanency, hence the claims, which measured 31 by 31 English feet, were not worked to secure uniformity. The Kimberley Mine lies due west of De Beers Mine, and the centres of these two mines are exactly one mile apart. The mine forms an irregular ellipse of which the major axis points east and west. At the time of allotment, reservations were made in regard to roadways, to ensure access to all claims; originally there were fourteen roadways numbered from east to west, and a subsequent, or fifteenth one, on the east side, was known as "No. 0." These roadways were designed to run parallel with the claim lines across the narrower width of the mine from north to south; each roadway was 15 feet wide, and each claimholder temporarily lost a strip of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet off one side of his claim. The licence for a claim was 10/- per month.

Sub-division of Claims. Claims being in demand, sub-divisions took place, first into halves and quarters, then down to eighths and sixteenths. At this time there were nearly 500 claims in the mine, and as no individual could hold more than two claims, the number of holders, by reason of the sub-division, soon reached about 1,600. The value of the claims increased, and eventually certain of them were disposed of for as much as £25,000.

The Roadways. Early in 1872, the roadways which had facilitated the working of the mine became unsafe; a succession of falls and slips occurred, leaving great chasms, until after a time the roadways were converted into a series of bridges.

A Human Bee-Hive. At this period the mine presented the appearance of a human bee-hive. The succession of rectangular ledges representing the working levels of different claims swarmed with thousands of diggers, and their half-naked labourers, reeking with sweat and grime. A din impossible to describe was created by the yelling and shouting of the blacks, and the banging and clashing of the buckets and tubs, of all sorts and sizes, in use for raising the diamond-mixed soil to the surface. Some of these contrivances



Kimberley Mine—Roadways in 1872.





Kimberley Mine—"Cobweb" of Wires, 1873.

(See page 23).

were hauled by ropes and tackle, and others were carried by hand along inclined staircases cut into the perpendicular walls. On the surface hundreds of vehicles of all descriptions hastened to and fro bearing their precious burdens to the various depositing sites for sifting and sorting.

Endless Haulage.      Endless haulage was next introduced and the roadways were abolished. This haulage was an ingenious device. Tall massive timber stagings were erected all round the margin of the mine, and each staging carried platforms one above the other, to the number of six. Stationary ropes stretched from the platforms to the bottom of the claims; the upper platforms communicated with the claims in the centre of the mine, and the lower ones with those nearer the margin. Grooved wheels were fixed on the various platforms, and endless ropes brought the buckets out of the mine; the hauling ropes were attached to windlasses on the surface level, each windlass being worked by four Kafirs. The buckets were made of rawhide, and the ropes were of twisted hide, ultimately these were superseded by iron buckets, and steel wire ropes. This cobweb of wires almost darkened the mine itself, and the noise of the buckets was deafening. The endless haulage system continued throughout the year 1873.

The Soils.      The surface stratum of the Kimberley 'Mine was composed of red sand varying in thickness from one to five feet, next a layer of limestone, then the diamond-bearing yellow ground, and afterwards the blue ground. The "yellow" was outlined by walls of decomposed shales, locally called "rotten reef," and basaltic rock. The latter substances were of no value whatsoever, and the former soon became a menace to the working of the mine; as the depth of the basin shaped workings increased so the "yellow" narrowed. A panic arose when the "blue" was struck at a depth of nearly 80 feet, as it was thought that the bottom of the mine had been reached. Fortunately for the future of Kimberley, and all concerned, the "blue" has proved equally as rich as its yellow "sister."

Troubles in 1874.      During the year 1874 the mine reached a depth of 100 feet, and two serious difficulties confronted the diggers. The first was an accumulation of water in the bottom workings, and the reef began to fall in from the sides of the mine.

The Mining Board.      Under Ordinance No. 10 of 1874, a Mining Board consisting of twelve persons was invested with full powers to levy rates and control the working of the mine. Rates were levied, and strenuous efforts were exerted to prevent the incursions of the common enemies, namely, the reef and water.



The "Horse-Whim." A timber wheel, 20 feet in diameter, fixed horizontally 8 feet above the ground, with an iron hoop reaching down to the level of a horse's collar was next introduced. It was called a "horse-whim"; by this means a haulage wire wound round the whim, permitting the use of two buckets of increased carrying capacity; as the whim revolved one bucket ascended and the other was lowered.



Kimberley Mine—First "Horse-Whim."

Steam Engines. In 1875 the first steam engines were introduced for hauling purposes; it has been explained that the delay in this respect was consequent on the exceedingly heavy cost of transit from the coast, and the undreamt of possibility of the mine extending to such a great depth.

Reef. Reef. Reef. The steam engines soon overcame the water troubles in the mine, but the trouble from reef continued and became aggravated, inasmuch that notwithstanding the erection of the best available machinery, the laying of many miles of tramways, the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of pounds, the sliding reef could not be overcome; and early in the year 1878 one quarter of the claims were still buried.

The quantity of reef removed from the date of the opening of the mine up to October, 1882, amounted to nearly 10,000,000 loads of 16 cubic feet each, but nearly one-third, or almost 3,000,000, were extracted during the year 1882; the cost to the Mining Board up to this date was about £1,500,000, not including the extraction of water and additional waste ground. Despite the labour and expenditure, the claims were still overwhelmed with a quantity of reef almost equivalent to that already removed.



Kimberley Mine—Rectangular Ledges.

(See page 20).

### A Black Outlook.

In 1883, the Banking Institutions refused credit to the Mining Board, consequent on its being in debt to the tune of more than half a million pounds sterling. The Board became virtually insolvent, reef extraction ceased, and some pessimistic claimholders became obsessed with the idea that the "crystal cavern" was doomed beyond redemption.

### The Year 1885.

At the end of the year 1885, the greatest depth of the workings was about 450 feet. The cavity excavated was roughly estimated at 9,000,000 cubic yards, of which about half was reef, and up to this period the estimated value of diamonds found was about £20,000,000.



Onwards from the year 1880 the diggers commenced to amalgamate their interests to enable them to combat their insidious and implacable foe, and about 1884 underground workings were resorted to. In 1885 a gigantic fall of yellow ground and reef at the west side of the mine stopped all the open workings for about six months.

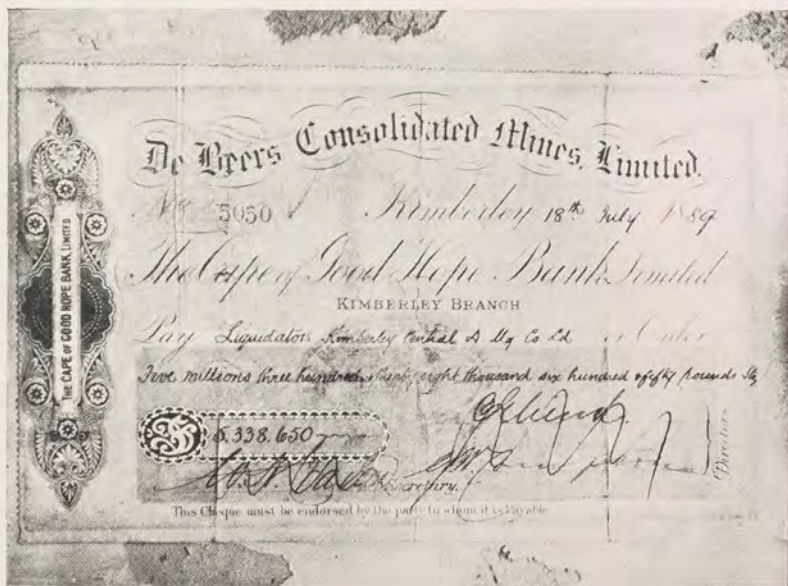
The underground works were carried on by means of shafts sunk a little distance from the open mine, and tunnels were driven through to the blue ground, which was excavated, thence conveyed to the shaft, and hoisted to the surface for treatment. This happy-go-lucky system of working was continued with more or less success until the year 1888.



## The Historic Amalgamation.

**The Advent of Rhodes.** Cecil J. Rhodes, born at Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, England, on the 5th July, 1853, was the youngest son of an Anglican clergyman, and as a youth came to South Africa in 1871 to join his brother Herbert on a small plantation in Natal. He returned to England in 1872, and entered his name at Oriel College, Oxford, but incipient lung disease compelled him to again return to Natal, where he found his brother Herbert had come under the magnetic attraction of the Diamond Fields. The success of the elder brother, drew Cecil, somewhat reluctantly, in 1873, to make his way to Kimberley.

**The First De Beers.** In 1880, as "Barney" Barnato floated his Mining Company at Kimberley Mine, Rhodes, with some loyal associates, founded the De Beers Mining Company on the contiguous diamond-bearing crater. On the 12th March, 1888, a fusion of the various interests in the De Beers Mine was accomplished, and the mine was thenceforward worked under the title of the De Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd.



Kimberley Mine—The Monster Cheque.



**Step towards Amalgamation.** In 1880, Rhodes had entered the Cape Parliament as the member for Barkly West, and became known as an unwavering worker for the extension of British dominion into the heart of Africa. It was therefore as no mere gain-seeker that he appealed to British capitalists for the wherewithal to buy out the various interests in the Kimberley Mine. Rhodes placed his project before Lord Rothschild, and with his assistance, as also that of Mr. Alfred Beit, the money was forthcoming.

**A Monster Cheque.** On the 31st March, 1888, the amalgamation of the Kimberley and De Beers Mines was finally effected, and subsequently a cheque, value £5,338,650 (surely the greatest ever known in mercantile records) gave the De Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd., the all-important control of the rich Kimberley Mine. This record cheque was signed by two of the Directors, who are still in our midst, namely, Messrs. C. E. Nind and G. W. Compton.

**D.B.C. Mines, Limited.** The owners of the Du Toit's Pan and Bultfontein Mines were next negotiated with, and the four mines came under one control as from the 7th August, 1888, and subsequently the Wesselton Mine also, which was discovered in the year 1890. The five great Mines, therefore, now under the control of De Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd., are those of Kimberley, De Beers, Bultfontein, Du Toit's Pan, and Wesselton, and they produce between them nearly one-half of the diamonds coming from South Africa, and practically all the stones of highest grade.

**Unique Success.** When the first four-named mines came into the possession of the one great harmonious concern known as De Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd., the directors, under the chairmanship of Mr. Cecil Rhodes, the Empire Builder, were enabled to institute and conduct a unified, broad, and comprehensive plan for raising diamond-bearing ground, extracting diamonds, and for disposing to the best advantage of the total product of their mines.

### KIMBERLEY OPEN MINE, 1914

Kimberley Mine, over 1,200 feet in depth, is the largest and deepest hole ever made by human hands. The distance across the open mine, north and south, is 1,520 feet, and east and west 1,490 feet. The circumference is 1,600 yards, or 160 yards short of a mile, and the area is 38 acres. The depth from the surface of the mine to the pathway around the top of the hard rock is 280 feet. The actual workings at present are in tunnels beneath this vast crater, and are connected with the surface by a main shaft, 3,601 feet in depth.

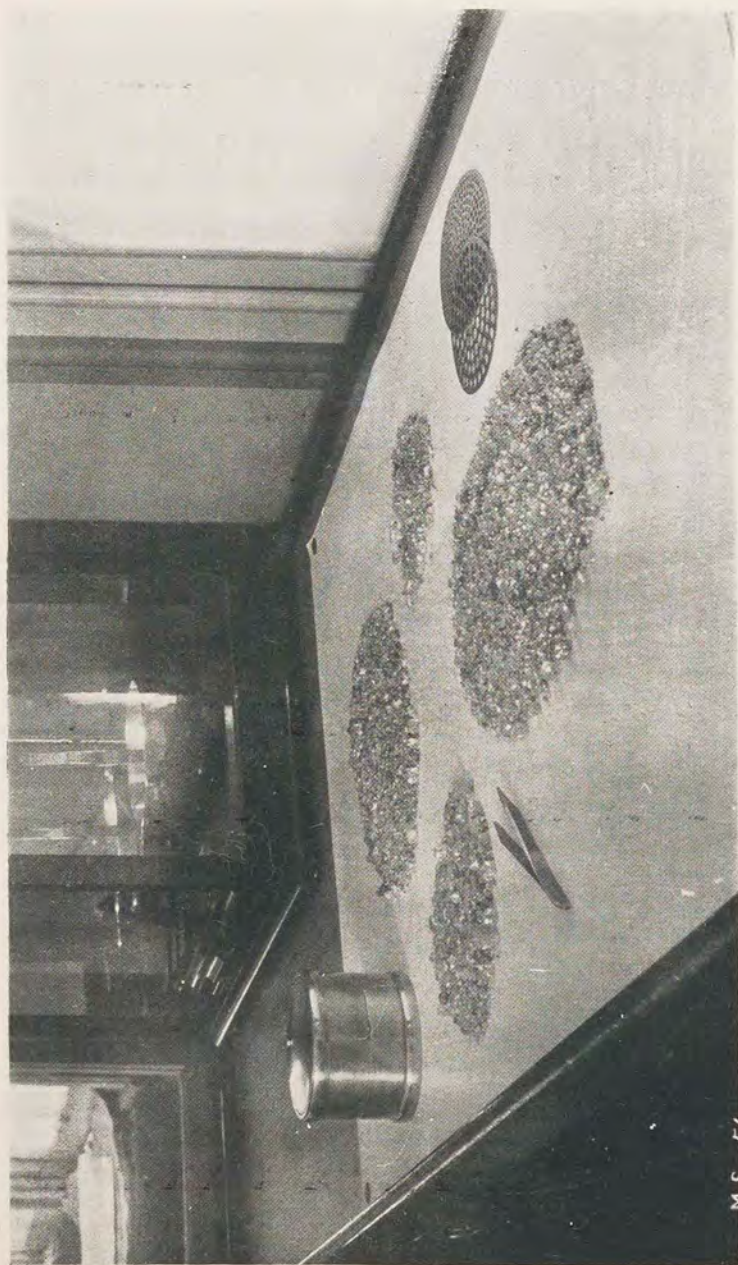


*Photo by*

Kimberley Open Mine, 1914.

*Middlebrook's Studio.*





*[Middlebrook's Studio.]*

Diamonds—A Day's Finds.

*Photo by]*

## The Native Compounds.

European visitors to Kimberley cannot fail to be impressed with a keen sense of interest and novelty by the unique settlements of labour known collectively as the "Compounds." Within the various Compounds there is what an eminent author has described as "a living ethnological collection not to be found elsewhere?" Natives flock to these compounds voluntarily from Bechuanaland, the Limpopo, and beyond the Zambesi, from the Cape and Kaffraria, from Natal, Zululand, Basutoland, and from Damaraland and Namaqualand, and a large number of them have been with the De Beers Company almost from its inception in 1888. The majority of these natives jealously preserve their national characteristics.

The Bultfontein Compound is the one usually open for inspection by visitors; it can accommodate about 4,000 natives, and at present it contains some 2,500 of the following tribes:—Zulus, Galekas, Gaikas, Bechuanas, Basutos (British), Basutos (Transvaal), Shangaans, etc.



Kimberley Mine Compound—Present Day.



The natives enter into a three months' contract, and at the expiration of that period they can either leave or renew their contract; they receive good wages, and are granted a percentage on the value of any diamonds found by them. They are sent direct from the Compound yard through a tunnel to the Mine Shaft, where they are lowered in "cages" to the underground workings. This tunnel has been described as a "path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen."

The Compounds are extensive unroofed enclosures of corrugated iron, with numerous large cabins, fitted up all round the interior of the walls. The inhabitants can purchase all their requirements, at town prices, from shops within the Compounds, and the merchants of Kimberley derive the benefit of the wholesale trade. The sale of intoxicating liquor is, however, strictly forbidden. Each Compound has its own hospital, dispensary, and operating theatre, and all are conducted on the most up-to-date principles.

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## Interesting Mining Notes.

Kimberley stands unrivalled in its diamond production. Of the world's output during the year 1912, 95.1 per cent. were computed to have been produced in South Africa, or a total value of £10,061,489, and of this total it is estimated that 46.1 per cent. came from the De Beers Mines.

A disastrous fire took place in "Friggin's Shaft," De Beers Mine, on the 11th July, 1888, and of a total of 685 men at work in the levels below, 24 white men and 178 natives lost their lives.

The largest diamond found on the Diamond Fields came out of the De Beers Mine. It weighed 503½ carats, but its value was only small, as the stone was "full of spots."

The De Beers Company employs in and about Kimberley 2,900 Europeans, and 16,000 natives.

The rich deposit at the Wesselton Mine was located in 1890, through the agency of a meer-kat, for in the earth thrown from the burrow of this small animal, the first diamond was found.

Bultfontein Mine, at its greatest depth, is 500 feet from the surface, whilst the underground workings are carried on at a depth of 1,000 feet.

A feature of the Bultfontein Mine is the smoke constantly ascending, which is caused by combustion in certain portions of the fallen reef.

It is considered by competent authorities that the local mines have a life before them of over fifty years, at the present rate of production. There are no indications of any bottom to the diamondiferous soil.

The absorption of all the mining companies in Kimberley at the time of the amalgamation was, in round figures, about £8,000,000 sterling, and the present capital of the De Beers Company is £4,500,000.

The De Beers Company has paid about £30,000,000 in dividends to shareholders. Before dividends are declared the Government is paid a profits tax of ten per cent. In 1913 this tax amounted to £426,500.

The diamonds produced in the Kimberley and De Beers Mines are very similar in quality, a considerable number of large stones being found in both, including a good deal of yellow and spotted ones, the colour being better in Kimberley, but the size larger in De Beers. The value of a diamond depends on the purity of its colour, its freedom from flaws and spots, and its relative size.

In 1870, after the discovery of the Bultfontein Mine, a number of diamonds were picked out of the mud-brick walls of the old Homestead belonging to Cornelius du Plooy. It was ascertained that the ground from which the bricks had been made was excavated from the actual site of the mine.

The Jagersfontein Mine is said to have been discovered in August, 1870.

Kimberley Mine lies due west of De Beers Mine, and Bultfontein Mine is to the south-west of Du Toit's Pan Mine. These four mines are situated within a circle three miles in diameter, whilst the Wesselton Mine is situated  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles in an easterly direction from Du Toit's Pan Mine.

The present market value of De Beers Company's shares is about £30,000,000.

Mudrushes, in the deep workings of the mines, were of frequent occurrence in bygone years, and were the cause of great loss of life, but owing to the improved system of working they are now almost unknown.

No expense is spared in making the equipment both on the surface and underground workings as complete and up-to-date as possible.

At the present time there are on the "Floors" some 11,000,000 loads of blue ground, whilst there are in sight in the five mines a grand total of over 50,000,000 loads, and the value of the former is estimated at seven and a quarter million pounds sterling.



## Public Buildings and Institutions.

**City Hall.** The City Hall occupies a prominent position in the centre of the Market Square. The Hall was opened on the 20th September, 1899, or nearly a month before the outbreak of the late war, and its uses during that exciting period were many and varied. The building comprises the Hall proper, Supper Room, Council Chamber, Mayor's Parlour, and the usual departmental offices, etc. The interior of the City Hall is in keeping with the general style of the building, the walls being enriched with Corinthian pilasters and entablature, from which springs a coved and deeply panelled steel ceiling. The Hall is equipped with a fixed orchestra, and portable stage and scenery.



*Photo by*

City Hall, Kimberley.

*[Middlebrook's Studio,*

The High Court of Griqualand was established under a proclamation issued by Sir Henry Barkly in 1871. It was a one-Judge Court until 1882, when its constitution was altered, making it a three-Judge Court, one of the Judges being called the Judge-President. In 1906 it was reduced to a one-Judge Court. Bechuana-land, after its annexation to the Cape Colony, came within the jurisdiction of the High Court of Griqualand. On the coming into operation of the South Africa Act of 1909, the title of the Court was altered to that of the Supreme Court of South Africa (Griqualand West Local Division). The Court exercises jurisdiction over a vast area, which extends as far north as Mafeking, and towards the west and north-west, to places so far distant as Upington and Kuruman.



Government Buildings, Kimberley.

The Kimberley Hospital has a reputation second to none amongst the Hospitals of South Africa. It stands in spacious grounds in the most desirable part of the City. The hospital was first established in 1871, and consisted of a mud-brick building, with very limited accommodation. Mrs. Crammond was the first Matron, and it is believed that the institution was entirely supported by the Government. In 1872, the building was extended, but later it was destroyed by fire, and was replaced by the "Southey Ward." Subsequently a second hospital was started for paying patients. It was under the management of a local



Board, with the late Sister Henrietta as Matron, a position which she filled for some years. In 1882, both hospitals came under one control. At present the hospital is conducted under the provisions of the Cape Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Ordinance, of 1912, which came into force on the 1st March, 1913, and the Board consists of eleven members.

The walls of the main building were cracked during the severe earthquake shock which occurred on the 20th February, 1912, and in consequence the building had to be demolished. A new building, both handsome and commodious, is now in course of erection, and when completed, about next Christmas, will have cost, with equipment, nearly £40,000. The hospital has accommodation for about 320 beds, nominal, *i.e.*, European 120, non-European 200. The foundation-stone of the new building was laid by the Honourable the Administrator of the Cape Province (Sir Frederic de Waal) on the 28th October, 1913. The architecture of the new building is practical rather than belonging to any style or period.

A Clinical Laboratory has recently been established at the hospital, in memory of the late Captain "Tim" Tyson, a member of the Board for many years. It has been named "The Tyson Memorial Research Laboratory," and Dr. G. H. Pearson, of the London Hospital, will shortly assume duty as Pathologist.

The Kimberley Public Library is one of the largest and most important in South Africa, it was founded in 1882. It is replete with every comfort, and with its collection of irreplaceable books is a sort of cloistered refuge for the people of Kimberley, and as a former Chairman said, the institution has undoubtedly played an important part by its influence in the history of the Diamond Fields, and of South Africa generally.

Standing in its own grounds, in one of the principal streets of the City, a very appropriate place has been found in its garden for the erection of a Memorial in the shape of a fine bronze bust of the late Mr. Alfred Beit, one of the early pioneers of the Diamond Fields, and one who did so much for the poor of Kimberley. The Memorial was unveiled on the 20th November, 1911.

Inseparably connected with the Library is the name of Sir Perceval Maitland Laurence, who devoted so much time and attention to the institution, and to whom in a very great measure its efficiency is attributable.

To-day the Library contains no less than 40,000 volumes. The science, educational, and reference sections, are exceptionally rich and well-stocked, and a special feature has been the collection of rare volumes dealing with South African literature. The institution has been singularly fortunate in obtaining some choice specimens of early printed books and pamphlets, and of some MSS.

Amongst its treasures might be mentioned the "Sluysken" manuscript, which has a peculiar interest, in that it contains a record of events of the early history of the British occupation of the Cape Colony that differs in some important particulars from the printed and generally accepted account of events of that time.

With its wealth of South African literature, it is safe to say that the Kimberley Library makes a strong claim upon the attention of every student who desires to become acquainted from first-hand sources with the early history of this great country. Amongst a few of its other treasures there is, for example, a copy—the only



Part of Public Room, Kimberley Library.

one known to be in existence—of a geography by Sebastian Frank, dated 1552. There is a rare Atlas of the World by Ortelius, and there is the official report in MS. of the defence of Rorke's Drift, dated the 25th January, 1879. There are a number of other works of exceeding interest and great value.

The Library has a free Public Reading Room, in which can be found copies of the leading current newspapers and magazines, and free access is given to all to make use of the volumes on the shelves. The circulation during the past year was about 38,000.

Kimberley's intellectual centre is the  
 Kimberley Athenæum. Athenæum. the  
 Athenæum, around which pivots, during the  
 winter months, considerable activity relating to  
 the study of the arts, science, and literature.



Resuscitated four years ago, the Society has prepared each successive session a more ambitious programme than those arranged for previous years. The 1914 prospectus is filled to repletion with exceptional opportunities for intellectual advancement in each of the several sections—Reading Circle, Arts and Crafts, Debating, Dramatic Section, Psychical Research, and Lectures. Doubtless one of the chief attractions this year will be an exhibition during September of examples of paintings, sculpture, and craftsmanship by leading British artists, held under the joint auspices of the British Colonial Society of Artists and the Athenaeum. For the nominal subscription of 10/- per annum members are admitted to active participation in every section, and in addition are entitled to admission privileges in connection with the lectures, art exhibition, and any other special attractions which may be arranged. The Society, however, is self-supporting, which speaks well for the business acumen possessed by the officials who govern its concerns. The present domicile of the Athenaeum is the Public Library—a natural and wise selection—but the time may yet come when such an important organisation will find it more convenient and even necessary to possess its own headquarters, with lecture hall, members' lounge, committee rooms, studios, etc., specially adapted to its requirements.

The Churches. Kimberley has not been slow to make provision for the spiritual development incidental and necessary to the progress and higher ideals of a community. In the palmy days of the diggings the Gospel was declaimed from the most unpretentious habitations, but to-day all denominations are established and housed in substantially constructed churches. Kimberley gives its name to the diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman, which was created in 1912, and St. Cyprian's Cathedral is an imposing edifice. The first Bishop of Kimberley and Kuruman is the Right Reverend Wilfrid Gore Browne, M.A.

Kimberley has been the headquarters of a large Catholic Vicariate for more than a quarter of a century, and during that period two Bishops have been Vicars-Apostolic of the Vicariate. St. Mary's Church is one of the oldest religious buildings in the City. The Baptist, Dutch Reformed, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Wesleyan, and other denominations are all numerically strong, and possess excellent church properties. The Griqualand West Hebrew Congregation worships in a Synagogue, which is among the finest in the country.

Theatre Royal. The Theatre Royal, in Du Toit's Pan Road, is one of the cosiest and best-appointed theatres in South Africa. The theatre was opened in 1897, and the cost of its erection was about £12,500; originally it was under the control of a private company, but on the 1st September, 1913, it became a Municipal concern. The

theatre has fulfilled an important mission, and has contributed largely to edification and amusement, while it has ever been conducive to the morale of the inhabitants of the city. No place of amusement is better conducted, and none but the best of theatrical combinations are attracted hither. The stage has a face of 54 feet and a depth of 38 feet.



A Section of Du Toit's Pan Road.

The Kimberley Club, located in a central position in Du Toit's Pan Road, is second to none in South Africa, and is renowned for comfort and lavish hospitality. The first club building was

erected in 1881; the roll of members contains the names of many men well known throughout a great portion of the globe, and also of men to whose public spirit modern Kimberley is indebted for much of its present prosperity. The building was destroyed by fire in the year 1886, but little time was lost in erecting a new building, which was opened on the 1st August, 1887. Another fire occurred in 1895, and barely a year elapsed before the present building arose from the ashes of its predecessor. The club possesses a unique collection of hunting trophies in the shape of horns of various animals; many of them have been presented to the institution, but the group was greatly increased and perfected through the efforts of the late Captain "Tim" Tyson. The list of visitors' autographs is a feature on which the club prides itself, the names comprising, as already stated, those of many of the most celebrated men in the British Empire.



## Alexander McGregor Memorial Museum.

The Museum. The Alexander McGregor Memorial Museum was built and presented to the town of Kimberley by Mrs. Margaret McGregor, in memory of her late husband, Mr. Alexander McGregor, who was the Mayor of Kimberley in the year 1886. The Museum is situated at the corner of Chapel and Woodley Streets, and is controlled by a local Committee, the Curator being Miss M. Wilman. The building is handsome, substantially built, and beautifully furnished. It was opened to the public in September, 1908.



McGregor Memorial Museum, Kimberley.

The Exhibits. The exhibits, most of which are South African, include minerals, rocks, fauna, and many curios incidental to the native life of the Northern Districts. The mineral collection is very good, and includes gold quartz from Rhodesia, calcites, apophyllites, and natrolites from the Bultfontein Mine. The cabinet devoted to rocks and fossils contains some interesting specimens of the *Glossopteris* flora, similar to those found in India and Aus-

tralia. In addition to the samples of blue ground from the various diamond mines, and the models of South Africa's famous diamonds, there are some interesting fish and reptilian remains, which were found in the floating reef of the local mines. There are also some fine South African molluscs, found at Port Elizabeth by the late James Crawford, which were presented to the Museum by Mr. R. McGregor.

The Bushman relics are of exceptional interest, and include a variety of implements and ornaments, made and used by the Bushman. There are also a number of Bushman paintings and engravings.

## Rhodes Memorial Statue.

A Lasting Monument. A massive equestrian Statue of Mr. Rhodes, executed in bronze by Mr. Hamo. Thornycroft, R.A., has been erected on an enclosed site abutting on Du Toit's Pan Road, at a point where four roads intersect. Mr. Rhodes is mounted on the horse he used to ride when in Kimberley, and he has his face turned towards the great North-land, with a map of South Africa resting across his knees. He is attired in the clothes he wore at the memorable indaba with the Matabele Chiefs in the Matoppo Mountains, in August, 1896, as a result of which a lasting peace was secured for Rhodesia.

Some Particulars. The height of the Statue is 13 feet, length 13 feet, width 5 feet, and the total weight is about 72 tons. The Statue is elevated upon a solid pedestal of Scotch granite. Nearly £6,000 was raised by public subscription for this Statue, whilst the site was presented to the people of Kimberley by the late Mr. Alfred Beit. The subjects on the panels portray Mr. Rhodes (1) receiving his Degree at Oxford University, (2) as Prime Minister addressing the Cape House of Assembly, and (3) conferring with the Indunas in the Matoppo.



The inscription on the granite base at the front of the Statue reads:—

CECIL JOHN RHODES.

Born 5th July, 1853; died 26th March, 1902.  
 Chairman of De Beers Consolidated Mines,  
 Member of Legislative Assembly for Barkly West,  
 Founder of Rhodesia,  
 Prime Minister of the Cape Colony,  
 Hon. D.C.L. University of Oxford,  
 A Member of His Majesty's Most  
 Honourable Privy Council.

This Statue has been erected by public subscription, on a site acquired for the purpose, and presented by his valued friend, Mr. Alfred Beit, as an enduring token of the esteem in which he was held, and the affection with which his memory is cherished by the people among whom he spent the best years of his life.

*Eheu! quanto minus est cum aliis versari quam tui meminisse.*

This Memorial was unveiled, and dedicated to the people of Kimberley, on the 4th day of December, 1907, by His Excellency Sir Walter Francis Hely-Hutchinson, G.C.M.G., the Governor of the Cape Colony.

## Educational.

Kimberley, from an educational point of view, has always been in the forefront, and to-day stands out as one of the most important centres under the Cape Education Department. This position is no doubt due in large measure to the enterprise and progressive policy of certain gentlemen connected with the Kimberley School Board. It is a well-known fact that the Cape Government, when drafting the School Board Act of 1905, received much of its inspiration from the Diamond Fields. Indeed, the Act, in so far as the formation of School Board areas was concerned, was to a large extent framed upon the basis of the model conditions existing at Kimberley.

The schools at present under the control of the Kimberley School Board number 35, and the teaching staff 171. The scholars in attendance in the City 4,156, and in the country 424; total, 4,580. Of the totals mentioned, the scholars other than European number 938. The nett expenditure on educational administration by the School Board during 1913, was £41,250.

**Training of Teachers** Early in 1914 a Teachers' Training School was established in Kimberley, and already nearly 50 students are receiving tuition. Candidates must be over 15 years of age, and must have passed Standard VII. of the Public School course, or Standard "B" of the High School course. Bursaries, in value from £12 to £18 per annum, are available.

**School Buildings** Kimberley has several schools which are architectural features of the City, and some of them rank amongst the foremost school buildings in the Province. A scheme covering an expenditure of over £100,000 was consented to by Government some time ago, and up to date over £70,000 of this amount has been expended. The two most notable schools under the control of the Board are the new Boys' High School, Memorial Road, and the Girls' High School, Belgravia.

**Compulsory Attendance** On the 1st April, 1914, the compulsory school standard was raised to Standard V., and the age to 15 years.

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**Christian Bros.' College** The Christian Brothers' College is situated in Du Toit's Pan Road, nearly midway between Kimberley and Beaconsfield. The Christian Brothers came to Kimberley in 1897, and for some years conducted educational work in a one-storied building. About the year 1904, owing to the rapid increase in the number of pupils, it was found necessary to make extensive additions to the buildings, including residential quarters for boarders. At the same time a science laboratory was erected, a portion of which has since, however, been utilised for the practical teaching of chemistry and elementary physics.

Subsequent additions, now nearing completion, embrace a finely-equipped gymnasium, a substantial extension of the quarters for boarders, and a chapel. Spacious playgrounds furnish the pupils with opportunities for indulging in manly out-door games, such as football, cricket, shooting, etc. The College has presented many pupils for the public examinations, matriculation and junior certificate, and has met with marked success. Previously, candidates were presented for the intermediate arts examination, with success, but it being considered that the College was not in a position to offer advanced students all the facilities obtainable at the University Colleges, the course was dropped from the curriculum. The roll at present shows an attendance of 382 pupils, of whom 101 are residential, and the teaching staff numbers 18.



## Kimberley City Council.

Towards the end of the year 1877, Messrs. Municipal Richard W. Murray, editor of the "Diamond Beginnings. News," George Beet, John H. Graham, LL.D., and James Ferguson, with several others, began to agitate for a Town Council, as they felt that the Government Departments could scarcely be expected to satisfactorily carry on the proper administration of the affairs of the township. The movement was a popular one, and under Griqualand West Ordinance No. 7 of 1877, dated 27th June, 1877, Kimberley was constituted a Municipality, with a body corporate, styled "The Mayor Councillors and Ratepayers of Kimberley."

The first meeting of the Town Council took place on the 2nd January, 1878, in the Court House, Kimberley. Before business commenced, the Civil Commissioner announced that Councillor John Birbeck had been elected Mayor for the year. Meetings took place each week, some very lively in character, but the Council set about heart and soul to make the "Mining Camp" a place fit to live in. Improved sanitation, and improved streets and drains, all woefully bad, were the first matters to receive attention. It is of interest to note that at this period firewood was sold on the Municipal Market at £50 per load, mealies were £7 per bag, flour £5 per bag, butter 5s. per lb., sugar 1s. per lb., and water at 10s. per barrel.

Councillor Arthur Stead, afterwards the *doyen* of the Council, and who is still in our midst, was the second Mayor. In this year the existing Ordinance was amended under the provisions of Ordinance No. 17 of 1879, dated 17th December, 1879.

In 1880, Councillor (since Sir) Joseph B. Robinson, the well-known millionaire, was the Mayor, and it was in this year that the Diamond Fields were annexed to the Cape Colony.

The year 1883 must ever be looked upon as a "red-letter" event in the history of Kimberley, for it was in this year that water was first pumped into the town from the Vaal River. Parks were outlined, public gardens were planned, and the townspeople saw visions of flowers, plants and fruit trees round about their homes.

The one-time drab and dreary wastes that met the eye, gave way at the touch of the magic wand, and lo! there awakened greenness and beauty.

In this year also the adjoining township of Beaconsfield became a Municipality under the provisions of Act No. 45 of 1882.

**Improvements and Dignity.** The old Municipal Ordinances were now repealed, and replaced by the Cape Parliament Act, No. 11 of 1883. This Act was afterwards amended by Act No. 30 of 1884. General improvements of every kind now became discernible in all directions.

In 1885, Kimberley assumed a new dignity and importance, as owing to its general prosperity, the railway had been extended hither. It was about this time that some of the prominent men of Kimberley and Beaconsfield set forth on prospecting expeditions towards the then little known lands to the north.

**Greater Kimberley.** Kimberley has experienced many ups and downs, but notable progress has been made by each successive Council. A new era, however, came about when, on the 2nd December, 1912, the Municipalities of Kimberley and Beaconsfield amalgamated under the name or title of "The Municipality of the City of Kimberley." On the 1st August, 1913, the special Acts under which the Council had been working for so many years were repealed, and the City came under the provisions of the Cape Municipal Ordinance, No. 10 of 1912. Under this Ordinance the six former wards of Kimberley were changed as follows:—Wards Nos. 1 and 2 became No. 1; Nos. 4 and 5 became No. 2; Nos. 3 and 6 became No. 3; and the whole of Beaconsfield became No. 4.

**The Mayor, 1913-14.** The years 1913 and 1914 have been singularly prolific in so far as municipal progress and enterprise are concerned, hence it may not be inappropriate to recall several matters, which have either been initiated or brought to a successful issue by the present Mayor of Kimberley, Councillor Ernest Oppenheimer, J.P. The matters referred to include:—(1) The mass of administrative work consequent upon amalgamation of the two sister townships; (2) the Theatre Royal becoming a municipal property; (3) securing a valuable site in front of St. Cyprian's Cathedral, where it is hoped that a statue of King Edward VII. will eventually be erected; (4) the conclusion of an improved arrangement with the Kimberley Water Works Company, for the supply of cheaper water, both to the municipality and to the public; and all these achievements have been crowned by (5) the metamorphosis of the tramway services, resulting in improvements so vast that it is safe to prophesy that the name of "Oppenheimer" will for ever be associated in Kimberley with the idea of good and cheap transport for the public.



The City  
Councillors.

Of course the Mayor can do nothing without the support and co-operation of his Councillors, and this has been generously accorded. The names of the present Councillors are:—

Ward No. 1.—Councillors A. Gunning, W. Sagar, and H. Schmidt.

Ward No. 2.—Councillors D. S. F. Blacklaws, F. Hicks, and E. Oppenheimer.

Ward No. 3.—Councillors D. W. Greatbatch, J. Orr, and G. Wood.

Ward No. 4.—Councillors H. B. Champion, T. Pratley, and P. Senior.

The City  
Officials.

The principal City officials are:—Town Clerk (Mr. J. Hopwood Thorp), City Treasurer (Mr. R. H. Starkey), City Engineer (Mr. Thomas Callen, A.M.I.C.E.), Sanitary Inspector (Mr. J. S. Dunn), City Electrician (Mr. C. K. Turner), Superintendent of Fire Brigade (Mr. B. Doyle), Acting Superintendent of Native Locations (Mr. W. I. MacDonald), Market Master (Mr. E. R. Wells).

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## Electric Energy.

Electrical  
Enterprise

Kimberley is lighted by electricity. The street electric lighting system was started on the 18th September, 1882, hence Kimberley enjoys the enviable reputation of having been the first town in South Africa to be so illuminated. On the outskirts of the town the "Kitson" incandescent (oil) lamps are installed. The supply of electric current to private houses and shops was first started on the 12th October, 1900, and the cables are being extended from time to time. Electric power for industrial and other purposes is supplied to consumers on particularly advantageous terms. In 1904, a twenty years' agreement was entered into between the City Council and the De Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd., under which the Company supplies current in bulk for all purposes.

## Railways.

In 1870 the railways of South Africa did not perhaps total more than 200 miles. In 1874, consequent upon the prosperity of Kimberley, legislative authority was granted for railway construction upon a large scale from Capetown, Port Elizabeth, and East London; the cost was about £8,613 per mile. It was a memorable year for Kimberley and the interior when, on the 28th November, 1885, the first train steamed into Kimberley along the new iron road. The opening ceremony was performed by Sir Hercules Robinson, the then Governor of the Cape.



Kimberley Station - A Section of the Railway Yard.

Kimberley is situated on the main railway line from the Cape to the North (the line to Bulawayo was opened on the 4th November, 1897), and forms an important junction with the Orange Free State, Natal, Eastern Province, and Midland railways; it is also the base of a line of railways running north-west to Mafeking, and north-east *via* Fourteen Streams, to the Trans-

Central  
Position.



vaal. Thus it is an ideal centre from which to reach all parts of the Union, and stands out as a most convenient distributing depôt of trade for extensive areas within three at least of the Provinces. The carrying trade previous to 1885 was in the hands of transport riders, whose wagons passed through Kimberley. The introduction of the railway wrought a great change, and Kimberley assumed far greater importance as a trade distributing centre than it had formerly enjoyed.

A considerable number of large commercial firms have recognised the excellent openings and possibilities which Kimberley and its hinterland affords, and have erected large business houses, which have dealt with a great volume of trade. This enterprise has met with considerable increase of trade by the opening up of the Kimberley-Fourteen Streams line on the 5th April, 1906, and the Kimberley-Bloemfontein line on the 8th April, 1908. Several other outlying towns and districts, at present reached by services of motor or post carts, are legitimate areas for Kimberley commerce.

The farming community of Kuruman (over 100 miles to the north-west of Kimberley) have clamoured for years past for a railway. The potentialities of the district are generally admitted, and development must depend in great measure upon the extension of the railway. It is hoped that the much-discussed *route* will be decided upon before very long, and that it will follow the only natural course, *i.e.*, where the population and goods traffic are likely to make it a payable proposition from the outset, namely, from Kimberley *via* Barkly West to Kuruman.

Kimberley railway station is reckoned one of the largest transshipping depôts in South Africa, and the volume of trade is rapidly increasing. The section of lines under the control of the Kimberley Divisional Superintendent stretches from Prieska and De-Aar in the south, to Bulawayo in the north.

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## Commerce.

Kimberley, for considerably over a quarter of a century, has ranked as one of the largest and most important centres of commerce in South Africa. The discovery of diamonds brought about a metamorphosis in South Africa's commercial condition, and

the wealth from the mines radiated and permeated commercial life and activities, and opened the eyes of oversea manufacturers to the excellent markets available in the sub-continent. Indeed, on more than one later occasion the salvation of South Africa's commerce was directly attributable to the prosperity and stability of the diamond mining industry, and notwithstanding the, at times, distracting vicissitudes which Kimberley has undergone, she has throughout maintained, and now holds, a measure of mercantile soundness the envy of larger and older trade centres. Outside the mining industry, which, of course, accounts for the major portion of Kimberley's prosperity, it cannot be said that the city possesses many distinctive industries or manufactures, and it is as a railway importing and distributing centre that Kimberley must be regarded seriously.

## Kenilworth Village.

### A Model Village.

Kenilworth is situated about three miles from Kimberley, and was established in the year 1889, at the instigation of Mr. Rhodes, for the better housing of a portion of the European employés of the De Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd. There are 125 houses in the village. The electric light is installed in every house, and the houses are let at a low rental. There is an excellent water supply. The avenues are lined on both sides with tall trees, mostly blue gum, which provide grateful shade during the summer heat. The village is within easy reach of Kimberley by a first-class electric tramway system. Some years ago an exceptionally fine meteorological and astronomical observatory, under the supervision of Dr. J. R. Sutton, was established at Kenilworth, where instruments have been installed, capable of measuring earthquakes, rainfall, and other phenomena. The village has a Post Office, Public School, English Church, a fine recreation club, tennis, croquet, and athletic sports grounds, and a rifle club. There are also nurseries, orchards, and vineries, from which, in the seasons, indescribable varieties of fruit, vegetables, and choice flowers are available in profusion.

The laying out of Siege Avenue was undertaken during the siege so as to find employment for natives and other non-combatants, and the progress of the work was often interrupted by both shell and rifle fire. The trenches for this garden avenue numbered fourteen; each of them was over 6,000 feet long. The two centre ones were for vines, and were 14 feet apart. The others were for a variety of ornamental evergreen trees. The Avenue



is one mile in length, and to-day stands out as a most pleasing and delightful Siege memento. There is ample space for a cart to pass along beneath the canopy of vines, which, in the season, disport an enviable and luscious crop of grapes. It is a noteworthy fact that although Kenilworth was the weakest point in the defences during the Siege, it was never attacked, in consequence of the fear that the work being carried out in this avenue meant the undermining of that point.

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## Alexandersfontein.

Pleasure by an excellent electric tramway service, is the  
Resort. favourite pleasure resort of the City. It has  
spacious terraces, and beautiful flower gardens,  
which give delight to the eyes of jaded town dwellers. One can  
take tea on the capacious stoep of a luxurious hotel, or wander  
round green lawns containing croquet and tennis courts; even  
indulge in a game of skittles, billiards, and other amusements,  
or take a refreshing dip in an adjacent swimming bath. Seated  
on a rustic bench one can also watch a trio of graceful swans  
and a score or more of glistening ducks disporting themselves in  
an ornamental lake surrounded by willows and turf.

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## Kimberley Diamond Market.

The Diamond Market is one of the most in-  
“Tin teresting portions of Kimberley. Apart from  
Antiquities.” the historic associations, of fortunes lost and  
gained, and the immense wealth and beauty of  
gems which it unpretentiously holds, from an architectural point of  
view, it represents the Kimberley of the past as no other part of  
the City can. The collection of tumbling tin antiquities which ex-  
tend almost to the very edge of the great Kimberley Mine, in a few  
cases, still bear the names of prominent personalities in the finan-  
cial world. The little low shanties peeping out from all sorts of  
unexpected corners, and not now appreciated, were in the heroic  
days buildings of note.

For example, on the right-hand side of Old Main Street,  
near the edge of the Kimberley Mine, the visitor will notice a  
small battered corrugated iron building, nearly half-a-century old,  
which, over its verandah, bears the inscription: “The original  
offices of Messrs. Wernher, Beit, and Eckstein”; names of men  
who have for many years ranked amongst the Napoleons of South  
African mining and finance.

## Water Supply.

### Water Supply.

Kimberley draws its water supply from the Vaal River at a point near Riverton. The distance of Kimberley from the Vaal River, or, in other words, the length of the Rising main from the main pumping station to the reservoir, is 89,000 feet (nearly 17 miles), and the difference between the normal water level in the river and the reservoir at Kimberley 496 feet. The price paid for water is 8d. per 100 gallons, with reductions to large consumers; monthly contracts can also be arranged. The Council has the option of taking over the whole concern in the year 1926.

The capital of the Kimberley Water Works Company, Ltd., is £450,000, divided into 45,000 shares of £10 each, £7 paid up. The Kimberley Water Works were constructed in the years 1881-2-3, and water was first pumped into Kimberley in the year 1883.

The water is taken from the river by low-lift machinery, and is pumped into sedimentation tanks about 60 feet above the river level, and 1,500 feet from the water's edge, where it undergoes the first stages of purification. The main pumping machinery takes the water from these tanks, and pumps it direct to Kimberley to a storage reservoir, holding about 10,000,000 gallons, whence it is passed to filter beds, to clear water tanks, and finally distributed to the City.

The pumping plant is so arranged that the lift between the river and Kimberley can be divided into two if an unusually heavy demand for water necessitates such.

### High Pressure.

In Kimberley the higher portions of the town are nearly on the same level as the Reservoir and clear water tanks, so that pressure in certain districts is naturally low; to remedy this, subsidiary machinery and plant, including a high service tank, has been provided, which increases the pressure to a satisfactory degree; this augmented pressure is available during certain hours of the night for Fire Brigade purposes in the lower sections of the town. The Kimberley reservoir is situated on high ground to the south-west of the City, and nearly one and a half miles distant, and the high service tank forms a prominent land mark.



The Weir at Riverton. Even in times of drought a large reserve of water is ensured in the river by a weir, recently constructed, at a point eight miles below the pumping station, having a length across the river of 710 feet. This weir retains water for a distance of 16 miles, *i.e.*, eight miles above and eight miles below the pumping station. The weir impounds approximately 1,300,000,000 gallons of water.

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## Climate and Health.

Climatic Conditions. Kimberley is situated in lat.  $28^{\circ} 43'$ , long.  $24^{\circ} 46' E.$  Barometer corrected to  $32^{\circ} F.$  mean 26.033. Mean relative humidity 51. Mean maximum shade temperature  $80.9$ , extreme recorded 14th December, 1896,  $107^{\circ}$ . Mean rainfall in inches, 18.26. Cloud, 1.9 (mean). Census population in 1911, 53,643. Kimberley lies on the northern plateau of the great Karroo, 4,012 feet above sea level, and can boast a climate which, for those who love sunshine and enjoy an outdoor life, is, especially during the autumn and winter months, almost all that can be desired.

Blue Sky and Sunshine. New arrivals, and especially health-seekers, are most impressed by the cloudless blue sky, and the number of days of unbroken sunshine. The fresh early morning is the pleasantest part of the day, particularly in summer, when the bright sunshine passes through a clear atmosphere, uninterrupted by mists or fogs. The air is never heavy, damp, or oppressive, but always dry and light, pure and invigorating. It contains a minimum of moisture, and the rain falls only in occasional heavy thunderstorms, which last but a few hours, quickly pass away, leaving the atmosphere cool and refreshing, and are usually again followed by bright sunshine before the day closes. The rain falls in such heavy storms that most of it rapidly flows off the surface, and as vegetation is scanty, the soil remains exceptionally dry. During the winter months, the days are as near perfection as the most fastidious health-seeker could wish for.

Heat and Dust. These climatic characteristics Kimberley shares with other towns situated on the high Karroo plateau. It also shares their disadvantages—the excessive mid-summer heat, tempered, however, by the dryness of the atmosphere; and that great abhorrence of this climate, the wind and dust-storms, which, especially

in the early spring months, *i.e.*, August and September, blow with an annoying pertinacity for several hours of the day, or springing up suddenly, blot out the landscape, and are then usually the precursors of rain. This drawback is, however, prevalent during certain seasons of the year in almost all South African towns. The dust, nowadays, owing to the macadamised roads and the numerous trees and gardens, is as nothing compared to the plague it proved itself in the days when Kimberley was young. No matter how hot or dusty the day may be, a cool, refreshing, and bright starlight night may be looked forward to.

In addition to the favourable climate already described, the conditions so often sought by persons in weak health can be found in Kimberley in abundance, *e.g.*, dryness of the air and soil; low barometrical pressure; freedom from organic germs, and abundance of ozone, especially referable to the surrounding country, where the dust is less liable to contamination by germs. The clearness of the atmosphere allows free passage of all rays coming from the sun, and this diaphaneity is as conspicuous here as in any other part of the world, permitting full play to the actinic rays.

The general health has vastly improved, as is reflected in the reduction of the yearly number of deaths. For instance, in the year 1888, the total number of deaths was 2,158, of which 520 were Europeans. In 1912, the number was reduced to 249 Europeans, and 758 non-Europeans, or a total of 1,007 deaths. In the early days typhoid and "Malta"—or Camp—Fever, were extremely rife; now they are only occasionally met with. This change has been accomplished through the vast improvement of the sanitary system, the combatting of the dust evil, a plentiful supply of pure water, and the erection of a superior class of dwellings. Organised arrangements have also been made with a view to minimising the possibility of accidents in the mines. The huge mining concern upon whose existence Kimberley practically depends, employs the great majority of the population, either underground, on the surface, or in the immense workshops; and when this is taken into consideration it will be realised that the City's death rate compares most favourably with that of other places similarly circumstanced.



## Sports and Pastimes.

Football and "Currie Cup"      All South African sportsmen are aware that Kimberley is the headquarters of teams which frequently participate in tournaments or games in various parts of the country under the name or title of "Griqualand West." Although the territory of Griqualand West comprises such an enormous area, teams nearly always consist entirely of players resident in Kimberley or Beaconsfield, and for this reason the record of this centre is unique in the annals of South African sport. All classes of sport have held sway in Kimberley from the earliest days, but Rugby and cricket are the two pastimes at which "The Griquas"—as they are familiarly designated—have made history.

In Rugby football, Griqualand West has always been one of the leading centres. In 1891, when the first English team came to South Africa, a Cup was offered to the centre which played the best game against the visitors. Only three points were scored against Griqualand West, the lowest number of the tour, and it was awarded the Cup. Subsequently the Cup was presented by Griqualand West to the South African Rugby Board, and with the Board's Cup, are the coveted trophies played for in the "Currie Cup" tournament. The Western Province and Griqualand West are the only two centres which have held these trophies, and the "Griquas" have the distinction of being the present holders.

Cricket      Kimberley has been a leading centre in the cricket world of South Africa, and has numbered in its ranks some of the finest players of the country. In 1896, Kimberley won a Cup, presented by Lord Hawke's team, for the best game of the tour against his team. After this time many of the leading players migrated to Johannesburg, and their loss has been severely felt, even to the present day.

Athletic Sports      A noteworthy event in the sporting world of Kimberley is the annual sports meeting held by the De Beers Amateur Athletic Sports Committee. This meeting is one of the largest of its kind held in the Union, and the prizes are, perhaps, the finest competed for in this country. In recent years sportsmen from far distant centres have entered for these sports, and at the last meeting L. W. Richardson was a competitor. The proceeds of these annual meetings are distributed amongst the local charitable institutions.

## Golf

Kimberley was one of the first places in the Cape Colony to inaugurate a Golf Club, and like all other centres where the "Royal and Ancient" game is played, golf has a large following. The course, which is within easy reach of the City, is an 18-hole one, and the bogey (76) may be considered fairly difficult. In 1913, the South African Championships were played over the course, when Mr. J. A. W. Prentice won the Open and Amateur Championships, his best round being a 71, which is a record for the course in a competition. The fairways vary a great deal, being excellent after rainy weather, but they become rather sandy in dry weather, while the greens, on which blue ground deposit of the finest grade has been laid, are true. Mr. G. L. Fotheringham, South African champion for 1914, has expressed the opinion that the sixth hole is one of the best in South Africa. A large and commodious club house overlooks the first and eighteenth holes. The course is open to visitors at any time on application to the professional.

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## The Tramways.

Dating from the 1st July, 1914, the tram fares at Kimberley became the cheapest in the Union. A Prophecy. At a public meeting during this year the Mayor of Kimberley remarked that the development which would take place in consequence of the cheapening of tramway fares and better inter-communication between the sister townships and the out-lying resorts would be so enormous that when the growth and history of the City came to be written in future days, the annals would be divided into three periods, *i.e.*, mule-drawn trams, steam-trams, and electric trams.

## The First Trams.

In the early eighties, when even the most optimistic of the citizens of Kimberley felt convinced that the mines had but a short span of life before them, a tramway scheme was mooted. The men of wealth were chary of the project, and Messrs. Gibson Brothers—at that period coach contractors—proved their faith as to the future of Kimberley, by overcoming almost insuperable difficulties in order to secure the necessary capital to inaugurate a tram service.





Kimberley to Kenilworth Mule-Drawn Tram, 1st February, 1896, to 30th June, 1914.

**Horse and Mule Trams.** On the 27th June, 1887, the Victoria Tramway Company commenced a horse-tram service (afterwards mules were substituted), between Kimberley and Beaconsfield. An extension to the residential village of Kenilworth was subsequently made, and the formal opening of the line took place on the 1st February, 1896.

**Steam Trams.** On the 15th July, 1900, steam-trams superseded the mule-drawn cars on the section between Kimberley and Beaconsfield, but the mule-drawn system, an infrequent service, was still continued to Kenilworth.

**Electric Trams.** In the year 1904, the De Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd., started an electric tramway service to the pleasure resort of Alexandersfontein, six miles distant from Kimberley. On the 1st September, 1906, Messrs. Gibson Bros. electrified their main-line system between Kimberley and Beaconsfield. Kimberley was the first town in South Africa to run an electric tram service, this being a special electric storage battery car, imported in 1891, and run during the Kimberley International Exhibition in 1892.

**Important Negotiations** Shortly after Kimberley and Beaconsfield had become united as one municipality, negotiations were begun for the acquisition of the undertaking of the Victoria Tramways Company. A valuation was made of the tramway property as a going concern, allowance being made for the unexpired periods of the Company's concessions; and eventually in April, 1914, the price of £35,000 cash was agreed upon.

**A United Service.** Then another arrangement was made between the Municipality and De Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd. (who supply the electric power for the tramways), whereby the latter were to control and operate the tramways within the City area, in conjunction with the services to Alexandersfontein and Kenilworth, providing a through service to all parts.

**Ratification of Arrangements.** This arrangement—which extends over a period of twenty-five years, at the end of which period the City can purchase the undertaking from De Beers, or the Company can renew the concession for another twenty-five years—was ratified by the rate-payers on the 9th June, 1914, and the new *regime* came into force on the 1st July, 1914, bringing universal benefits to the public.



Penny Fares. Not only was the service greatly improved—a new section being constructed to connect the Kenilworth line with the Alexandersfontein section—and many advantages introduced, but a *penny-fare* system was established within the municipal area, and children attending schools were specially provided for by the issue of tickets allowing 40 return journeys to and from school, irrespective of the sections or stages, for the nominal sum of three shillings.

Free Transport for Employes. Under the scheme, De Beers Consolidated Mines can allow their employes free travelling to and from work, while the Company performs certain public services—for instance, street watering and conveyance of road metal—on terms which are of great financial benefit to the City. Provision is also made for future extensions of the system to outlying parts of the City, either by the Municipality or the De Beers Company.

Saving to Ratepayers. The introduction of penny fares means, it has been computed, a direct saving of at least £5,000 per year to the pockets of those using the trams, and it has brought the tram service from the dearest to the cheapest in the Union. On audited figures it was shown that had the City Council operated the service in the Municipality cheaper fares (which was the object the Council set out to gain) could not have been given, except at a heavy loss, whereas under the De Beers control the City and the public derive colossal advantages, without taking any financial responsibility.

More Cheap Fares. Simultaneously with taking over the tramways in the City area, De Beers Company announced a great reduction in the fares over the lines on the outskirts of the Municipality. From any point in Kenilworth, Kimberley, and Beaconsfield, the single fare to Alexandersfontein is 4d., or 8d. return; against 1s. return (excepting on Saturdays, when the charge was 6d.), which was the previous tariff from Kimberley and Beaconsfield only. From Kenilworth to Alexandersfontein the return fare used to be at the cheapest 1s. 6d. (Kenilworth residents only), and 2s. to the general public. On the whole, therefore, Kimberley enjoys tramway facilities which are certainly unequalled in South Africa.

## The Northern Districts Agricultural Society, Kimberley.

Strangers to the Show ground are surprised at the energy and enterprise which have characterised the operations of the Committee of the Northern Districts Agricultural Society during the short period of the Society's existence. It was only on the 29th August, 1912, on the initiative of Mr. William Gasson, the then Mayor of Kimberley, that a Committee was formed to advance a scheme for an Agricultural Society. The De Beers Company immediately donated £5,000 towards the project, on condition that a similar sum was raised by public subscription; this stipulation was, by dint of hard work and exhaustive personal effort, successfully carried through.

The Judges' Pavilion was the first structure erected on the ground, and the foundation-stone was laid by Mr. Francis Oats on Saturday, 22nd February, 1913, in the presence of a large gathering. In the course of his speech, Mr. Oats said the people of Kimberley must solicit and secure the help and co-operation of the farming element of the districts around. The De Beers Company were heart and soul in sympathy with the movement, and in sympathy not only with the interests of the town of Kimberley, but with the success of farming in the neighbourhood.

During the Show Week both trains and trams from various parts of Greater Kimberley deliver their passengers at the sidings in the ground opposite the Show oval, and visitors at other times have the option of proceeding to the Show ground *via* Victoria Crescent, on the Alexandersfontein Electric Railway, and gaining access near the Racecourse; or of proceeding by tram to Beaconsfield Town Hall, thence walking the short distance to the ground. The Show ground has direct electric tramway communication with Kimberley, Kenilworth, Beaconsfield, and Alexandersfontein.



Two years ago the site of the Show ground The Grounds & was open veld, and the Society had not seriously Conveniences. been thought of. The Show ground, from the point of view of size, position, and appointments, compares most favourably with any Show ground in the country.

The site at present fenced in comprises an area of fifty-five acres, and there is ample room for extension, for camping ground, etc. The appointments comprise a parade oval, 700 feet long by 400 feet wide; two grand-stands, each capable of accommodating 1,000 spectators, at the back of which are conveniently situated refreshment-rooms, judges' pavilion; a large exhibition hall, etc. On one side of the ground is the accommodation for horses, consisting of seven buildings, affording provision for 270 animals; on the opposite side of the ground are cattle sheds for the accommodation of 250 head of cattle, kraals to the number of 40 for Africander cattle, together with pens for 290 sheep and 40 pigs. All these structures are made of steel frames and corrugated iron. There is ample accommodation for implements and machinery, and substantial offices face the main entrance to the ground. All the buildings are splendidly lighted and ventilated, and are provided with the most modern fittings. Various suggestions are under consideration for extending the existing buildings and the erection of new ones.

The practical and urgent necessity for an Agricultural Society, to serve the interests of A Huge Triumph. Griqualand West, Bechuanaland, and the vast hinterland of Kimberley, was amply demonstrated by the huge triumph which marked the first Show, opened on the 9th April, 1913, by His Excellency Viscount Gladstone, Governor-General of the Union.

The Show opened by Sir Frederic de Waal, Administrator of the Cape Province, on the 25th March, 1914, bore most favourable comparison with its predecessor, despite the severe drought.

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## Farming.

On account of the limited rainfall, and other Agricultural. drawbacks, the territories of Griqualand West and Bechuanaland, have not in the past been regarded as having very great agricultural possibilities, but experience has proved that both territories are eminently suitable for stock-raising purposes. For several years the pastoral interests in the north-western districts have been attracting attention, both in the Cape and the Orange Free State, and there has been a considerable influx of farmers, particularly

from the Orange Free State. Farms in the north-western districts, although still obtainable at reasonable prices, may be said to have more than doubled in value within the past few years.

As already stated, the north-western districts

Stock Raising.	are mainly adapted to stock-breeding, and are very suitable for cattle-ranching, especially Bechuanaland. Horses, mules, and donkeys do well, and cattle are bred very extensively. The breeding of Angoras is also carried on, but as yet there are not very many flocks. Ostrich farming is still in its infancy, but the country is good for this purpose. Pigs fatten remarkably well, and their bacon is all that can be desired. There are great possibilities in so far as sheep-farming is concerned. The rambouillet thrives. In comparison to, say, the Winterberg, the wool of this sheep improves on the veld of Griqualand West, it becomes longer, softer, and brighter in appearance, and the animal retains its large frame. This centre should in the not distant future produce a first-class wool, and at the same time a good carcase for the butcher.
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General Remarks.	The natural grasses are very drought-resisting, and stock reared under the usual severe conditions keep in good fettle under circumstances which would quickly reduce animals bred in other districts, more highly favoured by rainfall. The raising of pure-bred stock has not, generally speaking, received enough attention, but it is expected that the opportunity of acquiring good sires at the local agricultural shows will be taken advantage of. A good many importations of sires have taken place during the past year. A large number of dairy farms have been established on modern lines, and the making of butter and cheese is extensively carried on. When a cure or preventative has been found for the dreaded diseases of "Lamziekte" and "Gal-lamziekte," this district should rank as one of the best beef and butter producing districts in the Union.
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Irrigation.	During the past four or five years serious movements have been made in connection with Irrigation, and considerable progress has been reported. On the Orange, Vaal, Modder, and Riet Rivers many pumping plants of extensive capacity have been installed. The Kimberley morning market has for many years past been supplied with large quantities of fruit and vegetables, grown under irrigation on the banks of the rivers mentioned.
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## Charitable Institutions.

**Nazareth Home.** The Nazareth Home was opened on the 18th October, 1888. This institution was established to provide a home for the aged poor, incurable, and orphan children. The Home knows no distinction as to creed or nationality. Those suffering from infirmity or old age receive special attention from the devoted Sisters. The children are well grounded in an elementary course of education, and endeavours are made to provide them with suitable situations when they have reached sufficient age. Nazareth Home, when originally opened, had very limited accommodation, but it has been extended from time to time, and at present contains forty-two rooms, with accommodation for two hundred and six persons. There are spacious grounds, the gift of De Beers Company; one part has been divided into a playground for the girls, and another for the boys, whilst a small section has been reserved for the use of the Sisters. The Home is entirely dependent upon the generosity of the public.

**Newton Home.** The Newton Home, situated in one of the healthiest parts of the city, is a deserving charitable institution, under the auspices of the Dutch Reformed Church. It opens its doors to orphans, children of indigent parents, and other deserving cases. The buildings have recently been added to, and altogether they are well-constructed and comfortable. The Home is managed by a Matron and staff, under the guidance of an Advisory Board.

### “ Alfred Beit Relief Fund.”

**The Aged and Poor.** In 1909, to perpetuate the memory of the late Mr. Alfred Beit, a Kimberley millionaire, a fund known as the “ Alfred Beit Memorial Fund,” was inaugurated, its object being to give relief to the aged and needy residents of the Diamond Fields, *i.e.*, persons of over ten years’ residence in Kimberley, Beaconsfield, Wesselton, and Kenilworth.

**Donors to the Fund.** The capital of the fund was derived by public subscription, and the following are a few of the larger donations:—Sir Julius Wernher, £10,000; Messrs. Otto Beit, £10,000; De Beers Company, £10,000; Max Michaelis, £5,000; Barnato Bros., £2,100; Mosenthal Sons & Company, and their South African house, £1,000; Sir Lionel Phillips, £500, *etc.*, *etc.* The capital invested is about £44,000.

The Trust Deed sets down that investments shall be made in Government securities, or in Preference Shares or Debentures of the De Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd., and in no others.

There are about 130 beneficiaries on the fund at the present time, and the grants vary from 2/6 to a maximum of £1 per week, which amount cannot be exceeded in any individual case. Every application is carefully considered by the Council of the Fund, and strict enquiries are instituted before a grant is made; hence it is safe to assume that amounts are distributed to the best possible advantage. The amount paid out during 1913 was £2,140 17s. 11d.

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## Some Notable Happenings.

On the 12th April, 1875, there occurred a rebellion. Its prime causes were (a) aboriginal natives being permitted to hold claims; (b) failure to extirpate the evils of illicit diamond buying; (c) the unpopularity of the Government administration. To bring the grievances to a head, a person named Cowie was instigated by the diggers to sell firearms to natives, against the law. He was forthwith arrested, and the day of his trial was selected for the bringing about of a climax. On that day, Mr. Albany Paddon, hoisted the "Black Flag" on "Mount Ararat," a high debris heap at the south-east corner of the Kimberley Mine. Thousands of armed diggers assembled at the trial, and on Cowie being sentenced, their attitude became so menacing that the authorities, feeling their weakness, released the prisoner on bail. The Imperial Government ordered the dispatch of the 24th Regiment from Capetown, and on its arrival, after marching nearly 700 miles, the ringleaders on the spot were arrested. They were tried, found guilty, and released on satisfactory security being given for their appearance, if required. Other ringleaders absconded, but subsequently gave themselves up, and at their trial pleaded "Not guilty," which was confirmed by a jury composed mostly of diggers. This verdict perplexed the Government so greatly, that it wisely refrained from further action. The sequel was the recall of the Governor of the Province of Griqualand West, and the appointment of Major Lanyon, under the title of Administrator. Major Lanyon remained in office until January, 1879, when he left to govern the Transvaal. He was succeeded by Colonel Warren, as Acting Administrator, who was in turn superseded by Mr. J. Rose-Innes.



Snow Storm,  
1876.

Kimberley's oldest inhabitants can boast remembrance of several snowstorms, and the most severe of these occurred on the 25th June, 1876. Everything stationary was covered for several days with this "Manna of the desert." After the snowstorm ceased, and the sun again gleamed forth, the panorama of Kimberley Mine was a sight which no pen can adequately describe. Icicles of all sizes and shapes suspended themselves from the thousands of aerial



Kimberley's Record Snowstorm, 1876. - Old Main Street looking East.

ropes which reached to the bottom of the claims, and the refulgent rays of the sun created prismatic colours, wonderful to the eye of the beholder. Mining operations had to be suspended. The "blacks" enjoyed themselves making snowballs, and loading them in barrows to accommodate the sporting proclivities of their "bosses," and the sport of snowballing waxed fast and furious.

The Imperial Government, before the year 1877, finding it most difficult to govern the Crown Province of Griqualand West, made overtures to the Cape Government to annex the Province. In 1877 the Cape Parliament passed Act No. 39 of 1877, making provision for the annexation of Griqualand West.

Three years later, on the 30th September, 1880, the Legislative Council of Griqualand West met, and on the motion for annexation being put to the vote, it was supported only by the Government nominees, all the elective members opposing, but the measure was carried by the casting vote of the President of the Legislative Council, Mr. J. Rose-Innes, C.M.G., who was also at the time the Acting Administrator of the Province. On the 18th October, 1880, the Act came into operation, and the Province of Griqualand West became an integral portion of the Cape Colony.

**A Terrific Explosion.** On the 10th January, 1884, probably through the accidental ignition of petroleum, twelve explosive magazines, containing over 40 tons of dynamite, blasting gelatine, and gunpowder, together with several hundred thousand detonators and rifle cartridges, were blown up. One coloured man was killed, otherwise but little damage was done to property, beyond the value of the explosives, estimated at £17,000. The terrific report of the explosion seemed as if it would bear down the town. The smoke column, over a thousand feet high, was distinctly visible at the farthest River Diggings, more than 35 miles away.

**Kimberley's Great Man.** A public banquet took place in Kimberley on the 4th September, 1890, as a mark of appreciation of the honour conferred upon a local citizen, the Honourable Cecil J. Rhodes, on his appointment as Prime Minister of the Cape Colony.

**Kimberley Exhibition.** The South African International Exhibition at Kimberley was opened by His Excellency Lord Loch, Governor of the Cape Colony, on the 8th September, 1892.

**First Mayoral Congress.** The first Mayoral Congress took place at Kimberley on the 8th November, 1892, and various matters affecting municipalities were discussed and dealt with.

**Heavy Rainfall.** Exceedingly heavy rain began falling at Kimberley on the 13th February, 1893, and continued almost without intermission until the 16th of that month. The Vaal River rose so high that the water flooded out the inmates of the "Bend" Hotel, which stands on very high ground, some distance from the river. The previous record was in 1881, when, at the same spot, the water reached to the doorstep.



## The Kimberley Volunteers.

**The First Volunteers.** Shortly after the promulgation, on the 6th November, 1876, of Ordinance No. 9 (2) of 1876, for "Better Regulating of the Volunteer Force of the Province of Griqualand West," a regiment known as the Du Toit's Pan Hussars sprang into existence, but subsequently the name was changed to that of the Diamond Fields Horse.

**A Famous Regiment.** The Diamond Fields Horse, from 1877 to 1881, was almost continuously on the warpath. It participated in the Griqua, Gaika, Galeka, Transkei and Basuto campaigns. After these campaigns the warriors became so absorbed in abstracting diamonds from the earth that the corps was allowed to languish for some years.

The Diamond Fields Horse bears a proud record, as will be seen from the following example, which has been obtained from an absolutely reliable source:—

On the 10th January, 1878, the Diamond Fields Horse, 150 strong, plucky and inured to hardships, set off from the Diamond Fields for Kaffraria, over 400 miles distant, to take part in the Gaika-Galeka war. The regiment marched about forty miles a day, "under a hot and copper sky," and shortly after its arrival, it bore the full brunt of two most successful encounters with the savage hordes in their strongholds in the dense jungle undergrowth of the Perie Bush. In the second fight the Diamond Fields Horse were in hand-to-hand combat with the enemy, which numbered as twenty-five to one against their European opponents. After these successes, Colonel (afterwards Sir Charles) Warren, who was the trusted and popular leader in the campaign, was considered by the Kafirs to be possessed of supernatural powers, and they gave the Diamond Fields Horse the name of the "Diamond Fields Devils." In the first fight Captain O'Donovan and Lieutenant Ward were killed, and in the second fight one trooper was fatally wounded.

By a brilliant *coup de main* on the part of Colonel Warren, the Diamond Fields Horse surrounded and captured six hundred prisoners, who were marched into King William's Town, and the Gaika-Galeka Rebellion was thus brought to a sudden termination.

**Resuscitation.** On the 13th July, 1887, the regiment was resuscitated under its old name of Diamond Fields Horse. There were six troops, with the addition of an artillery troop, and at times a full band used to play at the mounted parades. In 1892, when Sir Henry B.

Loch, the Governor of the Cape, visited Kimberley, the corps paraded in his honour with over 300 mounted men, and a full mounted band.

On the 1st July, 1887—Queen Victoria's Jubilee year—the first infantry corps was established in Kimberley. It was called the Victoria Rifles.

On the 20th October, 1890, a proclamation was issued stating that the Government had accepted the services of a corps to be styled the Kimberley Scots, the Honourable William Ross, M.L.C., was gazetted to be Captain and Officer Commanding. On the 29th October, 1890, a further proclamation authorised the formation of a Highland corps.

Strong objections were raised against a third corps in Kimberley, and at a meeting held on the 25th November, 1890, it was decided to amalgamate the Victoria Rifles and Kimberley Scots. The Government approved this amalgamation, and from the 1st December, 1890, the combined corps became known as the Kimberley Rifles.

The 1st January, 1896, was the natal day of the Griqualand West Brigade. The Brigade was constituted as follows:—Diamond Fields Horse, one battery of artillery, the Kimberley Rifles, and a company of medical staff (the latter did not, however, eventuate). Lieutenant-Colonel (now Sir David) Harris was placed in full command.

The bands of the Diamond Fields Horse and Kimberley Rifles were also amalgamated, under the name of the Kimberley Regiment Band, which, under its able conductor, Herr C. Rybnikar, has proved that it can hold its own with the best Volunteer Bands in this country. In recent years this band has practically owed its existence to the generous interest and powerful influence of Colonel Sir David Harris, K.C.M.G., V.D.

On the 24th December, 1896, the Griqualand West Brigade was once again in the field, at Langeberg Campaign. Phokwani, British Bechuanaland, to put down the Batlapin natives, who, under their Chief, Galishwe, had murdered a trader and his assistants. Subsequently a section of the corps took part in the protracted Langeberg campaign.



On the 6th February, 1899, the Griqualand Reorganisation. West Brigade ceased to exist, and from the following day the Diamond Fields Horse and Kimberley Regiment were organised as a composite regiment of infantry and mounted infantry, the former constituting the left and the latter the right wing. The Diamond Fields Artillery was made a separate unit.

On the 3rd October, 1899, the Kimberley Volunteers were called into "camp" for active service. They were the first Volunteers in the Cape Colony to be so called upon, and they continued under arms until the conclusion of the war.

Boer War,  
1899-1902.

The Diamond Fields Field Artillery ceased to be a separate unit on the 31st March, 1907, and it was finally disbanded on the 1st July, 1908.

D. F. Field  
Artillery.

Under the Union Defence Force Act, the Kimberley Regiment as and from the 1st July, 1913, instead of remaining a composite regiment, became purely an infantry corps, under the title of the 7th Infantry Active Citizen Force (Kimberley Regiment).

Union Defence  
Act.

H.R.H. Princess Christian, when at Capetown, on the 10th October, 1904, presented the representatives of the Regiment with the King's Colour. On the 16th June, 1907, the citizens of Kimberley—through the auspices of the Loyal Women's Guild, presented the Regimental Colour, which bears the following honours:—Gaika-Galeka, 1877-78; Griqualand West, 1878; Basutoland, 1880-81; Transkei, 1880-81; Bechuanaland, 1896-97; Defence of Kimberley and South Africa, 1899-02.

Colours.



The Siege of Kimberley.





Colonel Robert George Kekewich.

## SIEGE OF KIMBERLEY.

The Siege of Kimberley lasted 124 days, from the 14th October, 1899, until the 15th February, 1900. A census taken by the Military Authorities towards the latter part of the Siege showed a total population of 48,000, consisting of 18,000 Europeans and 30,000 non-Europeans. The men numbered 26,000, women 12,000, children 10,000.

On the 13th September, 1899, Colonel (since Major-General) Robert George Kekewich, of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, was sent to Kimberley by the Imperial Military Authorities to assume command in the event of hostilities. He had been preceded by three special service Imperial Officers.

On the 21st September, 1899, Imperial troops to the number of over 500 arrived in Kimberley. On the 4th October, the Kimberley Volunteers were called into "Camp," and numbered 543. The Cape Mounted Police numbered 360, and the foot division 175. Kimberley Light Horse (raised during the Siege, principally through the efforts of Cecil John Rhodes, who secured the necessary mounts), numbered, say, 500. The citizen soldiers, or Town Guard, eligible for service within a radius of eight miles from the Market Square, Kimberley, brought the maximum strength of the Defence Force to 4,500 men. This number would have been considerably higher had further rifles been available. The total mounted troops included in the foregoing numbers was about 1,000 men.

The Ordnance comprised fourteen 7-pounders and nine Maxims. Six of these (mountain) guns were manned by the Royal Garrison Artillery; six by the Diamond Fields Artillery; and the remaining two, of obsolete pattern, were under the care of the Cape Mounted Police. On the 21st January, 1900, "Long Cecil," of local manufacture, came into regular service, and was manned by the Diamond Fields Artillery.

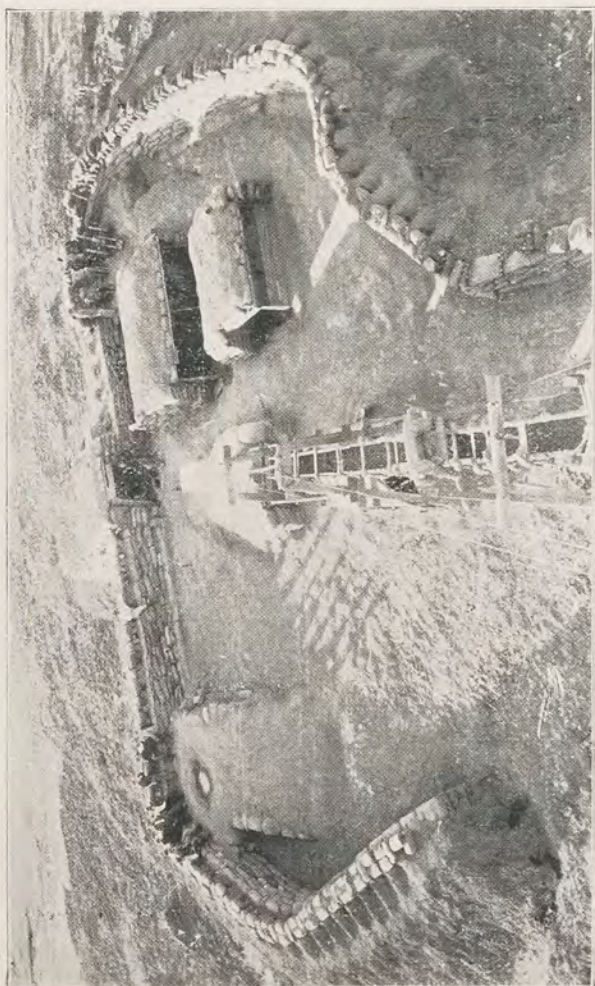
Mr. Rhodes arrived in Kimberley unexpectedly a few hours after the Ultimatum, and his presence cheered and gave confidence to the citizens. It was felt that his keen and sage judgment, and his cool and dauntless front in the face of dangers and difficulties



would be of inestimable worth in these critical days. It was further comprehended that he would be able to direct the potential resources of the De Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd., to the greatest advantage. To Kimberley people his personality spelt strength.

### The Defences.

The perimeter of the defences was approximately eleven miles. The Royal Engineers found the skill, and the De Beers Company the labour for the conversion of the numerous debris heaps into formidable redoubts. The Kameeldoorn trees which had begun



Redoubt on Debris Heap, off Barkly Road.

to cast a semi-beauty around the outskirts of the town had to be sacrificed at the shrine of expediency. These trees were cut down and ranged as a wall around the whole circumference of the fortress, they were firmly interlaced with barbed wire and presented almost impenetrable barriers.

Dynamite Mines. Dynamite mines were reported to be plentifully strewn outside the barriers, and ingeniously worded notices conveyed indirect hints to others as well as the beleaguered of the direful consequences which might result to unwary trespassers in their vicinity.

A couple of purposeful "blasts" added colour to these warnings; in addition to these "blasts" there was another circumstance which may have had some effect, i.e., that the work of putting down the cables for the house electrical connections proceeded apace during the investment, and it is quite possible that the outsiders had been informed that these cables were the connections to the dynamite mines.

Martial Law. On the 15th October it was proclaimed that a state of Siege existed within the territories of Griqualand West and Bechuanaland, and a code of laws was laid down for strict observance during the continuance of Martial Law which came into force as from the same date.

Refugees. Ten weeks preceding the War, there commenced a steady influx of refugees into Kimberley by train from the Transvaal, Orange Free State, Bechuanaland, and other far distant places. In the early part of the Siege refugees continued to arrive by wagon, cart, and on foot.

Water Supply. The water supply from the Vaal River was cut off on the first day of the Siege, and local resources had to be fallen back upon. One of the first suggestions was that the wells of the early days should be opened up, but this idea was abandoned. Wesseltown Mine was found to contain practically inexhaustible springs of pure water, pumping plant was installed, and in a brief space of time water was being pumped direct into Kimberley reservoir, about five miles distant, whence it was distributed daily to all parts of the town.

Wesseltown Garrison. The Wesseltown Mine having become such an important factor, it was specially fortified, provisioned and strongly garrisoned. It was also provided with an underground hospital, so that if necessity arose, it could hold out on its own resources.



Mining operations continued at Kimberley Mines during Mine until the 3rd November, 1899, and at De Beers Mine until the 4th December, and altogether Siege 240,000 loads of blue were hoisted during the investment up to the latter date. Insufficiency of fuel and dynamite was the determining factor in the closing down of the works.

Early in the Siege some enterprising and "Benevolent Despotism." speculative individuals started buying up supplies in the hope of retailing them at 300 to 400 per cent. profit. Paraffin rose from 15/- to £4 and more per case, and "tinned" provisions threatened famine prices. Colonel Kekewich, however, asserted a "benevolent despotism," and fixed the price of all necessities of life at the same figures as obtained in normal times. Great satisfaction and relief were experienced by the public, and the individuals concerned were correspondingly chagrined.

On the 4th November, 1899, the surrender of Kimberley was formally demanded, and promptly Surrender Demanded. declined; at the same time an invitation was extended to effect the occupation of the town as an operation of war.

On the 6th November, a couple of shells were First Shelling. fired towards Wesselton, but they fell short. These were the first shells fired. On the day following a bombardment was started in real earnest, about 50 shells being fired into the town, principally in Newton, but the damage was practically nil, as the majority of the shells failed to explode.

Several extremely powerful searchlights, nicknamed "Rhodes' Eyes," were kept flashing in Search Lights. every direction during the darkness of the nights, so as to prevent any surprises. Later in the Siege these lights were utilized for "flash light" signalling to the Relief Column at Enslin and Modder River.

On the 11th November, 1899, three 9-pounder First Shell Fatality. guns hurled no less than 200 shells into the town, and an old Kafir woman was killed in Du Toit's Pan Road, alongside the Catholic Church.

After the crowd had recovered from the first "Shell Hunting." shock of surprise and trepidation, they looked upon the shelling much as they would have done an exhibition of fireworks. "Shell hunting" became a pastime for some of the population, juveniles, of course, prepon-

derating. When a shell struck the ground a wild rush would take place for fragments, and at an early stage of the shelling some of these trophies changed hands for as much as a £5 note.

Naturally, the Kimberley guns had to return the fire of the guns outside. Frequent duels occurred, and as the total stock of ammunition was only 2,600 rounds, it was found expedient that all firing should be controlled from the Commandant's Conning Tower. Later on it was found that quite serviceable shells could be manufactured in the Workshops of the De Beers Company.

Shortly after the Mines closed down, and with "Hamba" to a view to husbanding the food supply as far as Mine Boys. possible, some thousands of natives were induced to set off for their distant kraals. A large number successfully slipped through the cordon, but many were compelled to return, for whom food and work had to be found.

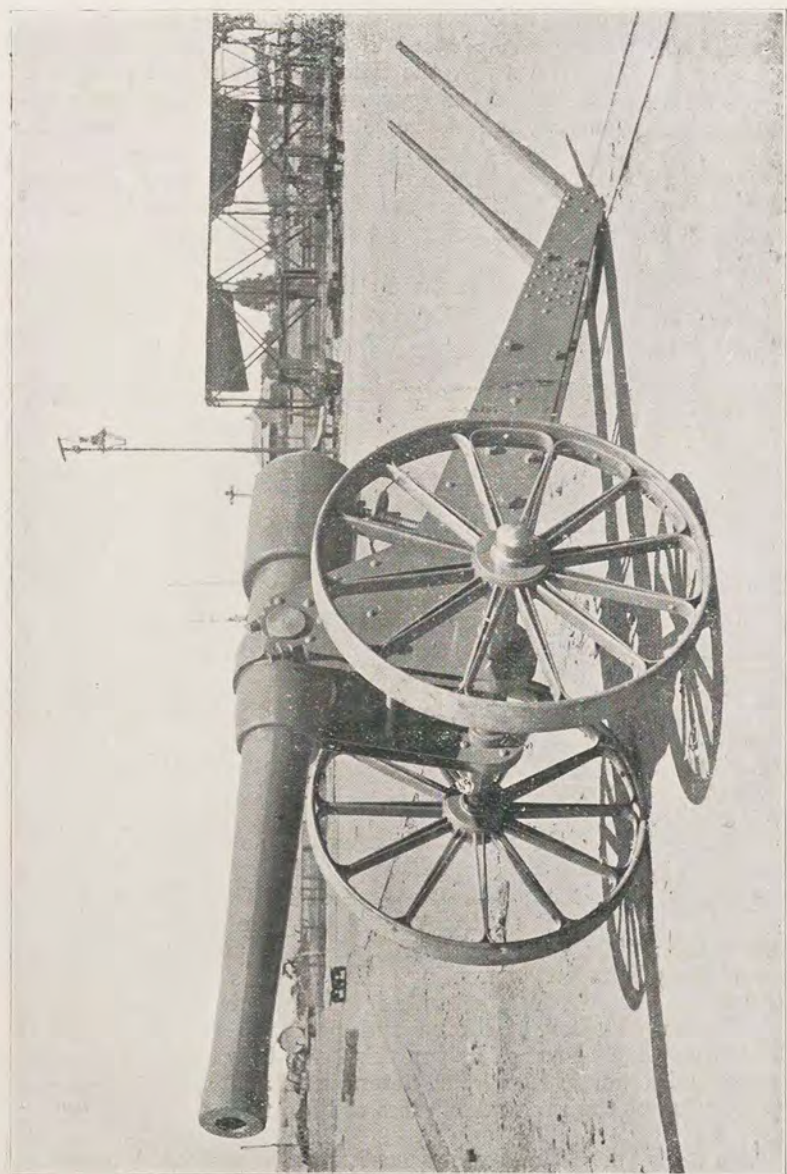
Mr. Rhodes solved the unemployment problem by arranging for the construction of the various Siege Mementos. roadways surrounding the site of the Honoured Dead Memorial. Another undertaking in this direction eventuated in "Siege Avenue" at Kenilworth.

It is unlikely that Christmas, 1899, can ever fade from the remembrance of the then inhabitants of Kimberley. Christmas dinner! No turkey, no pudding. No, only meat of the poorest description, and in many instances Kafir corn meal—ugh! No picnics, only thoughts of enjoyable times previously spent at Modder River or Alexandersfontein.

Queen Victoria sent a cable which was flashed Message from the Queen. to Colonel Kekewich, wishing all her "brave soldiers a happy Christmas. God bless and protect you all." The Mayor dispatched the following message: "The inhabitants of Kimberley humbly beg to send Your Majesty New Year's greeting. The troubles they have passed through and are still enduring only intensify their love and loyalty towards Your Majesty's Throne and person." Her Majesty replied: "Am deeply touched by your kind and New Year's greetings. I watch with admiration your determined and gallant defence, though I regret the unavoidable loss of life incurred."

The serious necessity for a gun of superior calibre led to permission being granted to Mr. Debut of "Long Cecil." George Labram, an American gentleman, Chief Engineer of the De Beers Consolidated Mines, (who was assisted by the Chief Draughtsman, Mr. E. Goffe), to





"Long Cecil," on leaving De Beers Workshops.

undertake the designing and manufacture of a heavy piece of artillery. The work was started on the day after Christmas, and its basis was a solid billet of hammered steel weighing 2,800 lbs., 10 feet long, and 10½ inches in diameter. Special tools had in many instances to be made, the work was pushed ahead day and night, and to ensure expedition as many parts as possible were simultaneously under construction. The work was completed on the 24th day.

The gun was christened "Long Cecil," it was tested on the 19th January, and on the 21st it came into regular service; it proved itself of incalculable worth when placed in comparison with the "pop guns" of the military. "Long Cecil" fired projectiles weighing 28 lbs., both of the "common" and "ring" variety. The total number of shots fired was 255, the majority of them at a range of about 5,000 yards.

"Long Cecil" has been described as "the crowning glory of the defence of Kimberley." Lord Roberts, Lord Kitchener and many other Imperial officers expressed surprise at the finish and neat construction of the weapon. A famous war correspondent remarked: "Of all the things that I have personally seen or read of in the annals of war, the most remarkable is the making of this gun in a mining workshop in the centre of Africa."

On the 24th January, a fierce bombardment commenced at 3.30 a.m. and continued through-  
 Boom  
 Boom. out the day, and even after nightfall. No less than nine 9-pounder guns posted in various positions took part, and altogether they flung 500 shells, or about two tons weight of iron and explosives into the town; the nett result, other than damage to property, was one European girl killed and one native slightly wounded.

The Kimberley guns fired 150 rounds in reply, "Pop-guns." but the Imperial "pop guns" were practically useless; the only weapon capable of good service was "Long Cecil," which after 60 shots went temporarily out of action.

The most menacing and alarming phase of the  
 The 100  
 Pounder. Siege was sprung on the inhabitants when, through continued privations, their powers of uncomplaining endurance seemed stretched to the utmost limits. The new feature was the introduction, on the 7th February, of a "Long Tom," 100-pounder, which towards midday unexpectedly opened fire on the town from the Kamfersdam tailing heap. After the advent of this gun business became practically suspended, and the streets became deserted. No part of Kimberley or Beaconsfield was safe from its attention, and there reigned a perfect agony of suspense and nervousness. Occasionally the gun fired three or four shells at the rate of every four minutes, the



smaller guns also continued "chipping in," and scattered 9-pounder shells in every direction. These 9-pounder guns had become more destructive than formerly, it was evident that these shells were now being loaded with double charges of powder so as to increase their velocity. Yet they were almost lost sight of consequent on the terror and confusion created by the screech and crash of the mammoth shells.

On the 9th February, "Long Tom" opened fire at 4 a.m. and continued, in company with the smaller guns, until 6 p.m. Late on this afternoon a 9-pounder shell set fire to one of the principal shops in Du Toit's Pan Road, and burnt it to the ground. A large crowd assembled, but quickly made itself scarce when several shrapnels burst in close proximity to the blazing building. The special Fire Brigade, however, stood its ground, and prevented what might have been a more disastrous conflagration. The last shot fired by the 100-pounder on this day entered the private room at the Grand Hotel, occupied by Mr. Labram of "Long Cecil" fame. Mr. Labram was in the act of dressing for dinner, and he was instantaneously killed, but, strange to relate, his native boy, who was also in the room, escaped unhurt. Subsequently it was proved that the above day was the worst of the Siege, all the guns on both sides having taken part in the duel.

On Saturday, 10th February, the bombardment was continued, and owing to the extreme danger involved, it was decided that the funeral of Mr. Labram should not take place until 8 p.m. The funeral was to be carried out with full military honours, and long before the appointed hour a vast crowd had congregated near the Hospital gates to view the start of the sad procession. In intense darkness the remains of Kimberley's latest hero, covered by the Union Jack, were solemnly borne from the Hospital to the gun carriage. It is impossible that the onlookers can ever forget the weird impressive scene "unparalleled under the Southern Cross, and in some respects unlike anything that one has read of in the annals of war." The Regulars, Volunteers and Citizen Soldiers, together with private citizens, formed an immense concourse, and all with serious mien, made a picture tinged with melancholy impossible of expression.

On the last stroke of the hour of eight, the "Alarm Bugle" at the Conning Tower rang out its customary warning note. In a few seconds the boom of a shell leaving the gun was heard, and soon a screeching, tearing noise foretold that a shell was hurtling through the air over the heads of the assembled multitude; a sigh of relief could be plainly heard as the shell descended with terrific force in a street a little distance behind the Hospital. The pro-

cession seemed to waver for a moment, when a stentorian and decisive command broke the prevailing stillness for "lights out," i.e., the extinguishing of all the lights on the conveyances of the mourners. The Band was also ordered to cease playing, and the cortège proceeded in silence on its hazardous mission. The gun continued firing at short intervals until near midnight; all parts of the town were favoured alike, but only one native was wounded, although considerable damage was done to property.



Colonel Kekewich's Conning Tower over Headgear at De Beers Mine.

The Mayor, in consultation with Mr. Rhodes, and other leading citizens, prepared the following message for dispatch to Lord Roberts:—

Reasons for Relief.

"Kimberley, 10th February. On behalf of the inhabitants of this town, we respectfully desire to be informed whether there is an intention on your part to make an immediate effort for our relief. Your troops have been for more than two months within a distance of a little over 20 miles from Kimberley,



and if the Spytfontein hills are too strong for them, there is an easy approach over a level flat. This town, with a population of over 45,000 people, has been besieged for 120 days, and a large portion of its inhabitants has been enduring great hardships. Scurvy is rampant among the natives; children, owing to lack of proper food, are dying in great numbers, and dysentery and typhoid are very prevalent. The chief food of the whites has been bread and horseflesh for a long time past, and of the blacks meal and salt only. These hardships, we think you will agree, have been borne patiently and without complaint by the people. During the past few days . . . has (been) brought into action from a position within three miles of us a 6-inch gun throwing a hundred pounder shell, which is setting fire to our buildings, and is daily causing death among the population. As you are aware, the military guns here are totally unable to cope with this new gun. The only weapon which gives any help is one locally manufactured. Under these circumstances, as representing this community, we feel that we are justified in asking whether you have any immediate intention of instructing your troops to come to our relief . . . it is absolutely essential that immediate relief should be afforded to this place."

Lord Roberts subsequently replied pointing out the " . . . disastrous and humiliating effect of surrender after so prolonged and glorious a defence. Many days cannot possibly elapse before Kimberley is relieved. . . . Future military operations depend in a large degree on your maintaining your position a very short time longer."

Great indignation was aroused on the contents of the foregoing message being made known, as the word surrender had never once been mentioned in any responsible circle. The misunderstanding in this respect was satisfactorily cleared away after the Siege.

Sunday, 11th February. The loss of life sustained and the damage done to property since the introduction of "Long Tom" had now begun to assume a most serious aspect. Mr. Rhodes consequently issued notices recommending women and children to take shelter in the mines, and arrangements were made for lowering them down the Kimberley and De Beers Shafts, from 8 o'clock onwards throughout the night. 2,550 women and children, and a few men, availed themselves of the offer. Most of the women and children remained 1,200 feet down in the bowels of the earth until all danger was past, but the men were ordered up next day.

At this juncture, it may not be inappropriate to pay a tribute of praise to the Defence Force, for the manner in which it always comported itself. The mounted troops deserve special commendation

Daring  
Courage.

for their daring courage and resource in the numerous sorties in which they were engaged. There is little doubt that the mobility and magnificent dash of the mounted men, who were constantly popping up where least expected, had a wholesome effect in preserving the town from attack. The Kimberley men, in the dozen or more skirmishes and engagements of the Siege, were always the aggressors.

The First round about Dronfield, a Siding on the main railway line, more than six miles north of Kimberley.

Skirmish. The fight lasted practically all day, and although the object in view (putting the Waterworks machinery at Riverton out of order, so that water could not be pumped to the Intermediate Pumping Station, some distance outside Kimberley) was not attained, the result of the fight proved the mettle and utility of the local forces. The casualties in this fight were: killed, 3; wounded, 19.

Bayonets The two most notable engagements of the Siege took place at Carter's Ridge, the first one on the 25th November, 1899, when a small party under Colonel Scott-Turner surprised and captured several redoubts at the point of the bayonet. An extraordinary feature of this fight was that the troopers of the Kimberley Light Horse had only had bayonets served out to them the previous night, and many of them finding themselves unable to fix the bayonets on the end of their rifles, dashed to the attack with gun in one hand and piece of cold steel in the other. Greater fearlessness could not have been displayed by trained soldiers than was shown by these raw Kimberley lads in hastening to obey the word of command of their brave leader. Thirty-three prisoners were taken, together with a quantity of rifles and ammunition, and the artillery was also within an ace of being captured. The Kimberley losses were: killed, 7; wounded, 29, one mortally.

Disastrous Three days later, on the 28th November, the above redoubts were again the object of attack, but through some misunderstanding only 70 men, out of some hundreds, actually took part in the movement. This handful of men rushed three of the redoubts, and, just at dusk, in attempting to capture the fourth and principal redoubt they sustained a disastrous reverse. Colonel Scott-Turner and twenty officers and men were killed, and two died afterwards. It is on record "that 70 citizen soldiers of Kimberley went to take the position, and out of that number there were only 20 who were able to creep away alive or unwounded after nightfall."

Kimberley's The following is an extract from the "Diamond Fields Advertiser" of the 30th November, 1899:—  
Sorrow.



"Kimberley mourns the loss of some of her bravest sons, and her sorrow is intensified by the fact that Lieutenant-Colonel Scott-Turner, who has so gallantly led the mounted troops is amongst the fallen . . . during the past few weeks Scott-Turner's name has been on everybody's lips . . . his name will ever be cherished as that of the noblest of the band of heroes who died in the defence of Kimberley."

In December, 1899, all available foodstuffs were taken over by the Military, and rations could only be supplied on production of permits issued by the Food Supply Committee. The fixed rations for Europeans and coloured Colonials was 14 ounces of bread or 10 ounces of Boer meal and flour, 2 ounces of either mealie meal or Kafir corn, 2 ounces of rice, 2 ounces of sugar,  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce of tea and  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce of coffee. The meat ration was  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. per diem, but it was mostly bone and gristle. The dietary of natives consisted of 6 ounces of mealie meal, 4 ounces of Kafir corn, 2 ounces of samp, tea, coffee and sugar. The meat ration had been reduced to  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. for adults and 2 ounces for children under 15, but on the 8th January it was found necessary to serve out horseflesh. Great were the jokes about the poor "old crock" cab horses! The late Captain "Tim" Tyson became identified with a Soup Kitchen, from which on the opening day 3,000 pints of soup were distributed, and at the end of the Siege 8,000 pints were being ladled out daily. The ingredients were meat, mangel-wurzel, prickly pears, etc.

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## **WM. SAGAR**

**Auctioneer and Sworn Appraiser,**

Duly instructed will sell by Public Auction ON THE MARKET SQUARE

**THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING**

**AT 11 SHARP.**

**ONE SPLENDID PRIME  
SLAUGHTER HORSE,**

Fattened specially for the occasion,

**NO RESERVE.**

a1229

**WILLIAM SAGAR, Auctioneer.**

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**HORSE-FLESH!**

Fac-simile of advertisement in "D. F. Advertiser,"

24th January, 1900.

## Force of Opponents.

The number of the investing force fluctuated considerably, but it has been surmised that in the event of a general attack a striking force of 10,000 to 12,000 men would have been available.

## Shells and Casualties.

Throughout the Siege over 8,000 shells were fired into Kimberley, and the guns in use varied in number from nine to twelve 9-pounders, a 12-pounder, and the "Long Tom." During the Siege, in actual warfare, chiefly in sorties, the number of killed was, Europeans, 51; Natives, 2. The foregoing figures include those killed or died from injuries received by shells, divided as follows: One Sergeant of Artillery, whilst a duel was in progress; Mr. Labram and two other men; one lady, one young girl, and two small boys; one Kafir woman and a Kafir man. Total, 10. All the small shells in a period of 116 days only killed four persons, whilst the 100-pounder in eight days killed six persons; strange to say nobody was killed or wounded by any of the hundreds of shells which were dropped into Beaconsfield.

## "At Homes" and Games.

A particularly excellent spirit of goodwill and *camaraderie* existed amongst all classes of the community during the City's period of troubles and privations. To in some measure dispel the monotony which was being endured by all alike, sports and games of all kinds were indulged in, Fort vs. Fort, or Military vs. Civilians, and the like; many a well-contested cricket or football match was fought to a finish despite the stern fact that shells were falling in close proximity to the field of play. Socials and "At Homes" were also held, and some of the printed invitations bore the quaint proviso, "Boers and weather permitting." The loyalty and morale of the garrison remained unimpaired until the end.

## Deaths during Siege.

Amongst the 22,000 women and children, about 70 per cent. of whom were European and Cape coloured, there was much sickness, especially amongst the children. European infants died at the rate of about 500 per thousand, or almost half of those born. So far as the Coloureds were concerned the death rate was 935 per thousand born, and had the Siege been prolonged, it would have meant almost total extinction of the children born in 1899. The number of deaths from all causes in each of the four months was 183, 302, 585 and 609 respectively, or a total of 1,679, almost equivalent to the number of deaths in a complete year about that time. The most serious disease during the Siege was scurvy, which, with the exception of two or three decided cases, was confined to the native population. There were only a few cases of scurvy in the first month, and no deaths, but in the last three months there were no less than 483 fatal cases out of about 1,500 known cases. When supplies were replenished and proper food was obtainable, there was a sudden diminution of the disease. Typhoid and dysentery were also very prevalent.



One of the most remarkable incidents of the Siege was the seizure of Alexandersfontein, a strong position with stone kraals, rocky kopjes and high ground on both flanks. At daybreak on the 14th February, 1900, the day before the Siege was raised, the Beaconsfield Town Guard became aware of the fact that Alexandersfontein had been temporarily deserted, and a handful of them hurriedly swooped down on the place. They immediately proceeded to make themselves at home.

Three unsuspecting despatch riders and several others were captured and made prisoners. The place was found to be well stocked, and later on the half-starved garrison viewed a most glorious sight, when there was escorted into Kimberley five ox-wagons, fifty head of cattle, a variety of fruit, vegetables, butter, fowls, geese, pigs, etc.

As soon as possible, reinforcements of troops, with two 7-pounder guns, were sent out to assist in holding the new position, and in a few hours a furious fight was in progress. Frequent attempts were made to drive out the captors, artillery was brought to bear from the east and west sides, and all were subjected to a most harassing cross-fire.

The fight was continued on the day following, the 15th February, 1900, until about 2.30 p.m., when, to the immense delight of the defenders, who were finding their position decidedly unpleasant, the Relief Column of over 5,000 cavalry, including a complement of Royal Horse Artillery, hove in sight, and a few hours afterwards the Siege of Kimberley became a thing of the past.

Only those present on that day can realise what feelings of joy and gratitude animated the hearts of the citizens of Kimberley as they beheld from the tailing heaps of Beaconsfield General French and his gallant *entourage* galloping to the relief across the plains of the Orange Free State.



## A Gathering of Distinguished Men.

### A Unique Event.

Possibly never before, or since, in South Africa has there been such a phenomenal gathering of distinguished men as took place in the Town Hall of Kimberley on the 1st March, 1900, immediately after the siege. The central figure was that of Field-Marshal Lord Roberts, while on the left of the Mayor of Kimberley sat Lord Kitchener. Next to the conqueror of Khartoum sat Lord Methuen, of Modder River and Magersfontein fame. The Right Honourable Cecil J. Rhodes, P.C., M.L.A., the greatest of all these celebrities, was there too; also Sir Ellis Ashmead Bartlett, M.P. The Foreign Attaches of Lord Roberts' staff, Lord Loch, son of a former Governor of Cape Colony, and Colonel Robert George Kekewich, the hero of Kimberley's defence, were also present, and only the presence of General Sir John French was lacking to make the gathering complete. A welcome typical of the Diamond Fields was accorded by the assembled multitude to the distinguished visitors.



## Honoured Dead Memorial.

The Honoured Dead Memorial, erected to perpetuate the memory of the brave men who gave their lives to save the City, overlooks Kimberley from the highest point of Memorial Hill.

Its prototype is the famous Nereid monument, discovered at Xanthos, Asia Minor, by Sir Charles Fellows, in 1840-42; the whole of this richly-adorned Ionic monument had been shaken down by an earthquake, and the remains scattered on the cliff on which the ruins stand. It was, however, reconstructed, the model giving a definite idea of the massive structure that was once the pride of Xanthos. The monument derives its name from the figures that stood in the columns, which have been described as *Nereids*, or sea divinities. It is unique because of the richness and variety of the decorations that still exist. Reams of descriptive matter have been written, and volumes of learned discussion published on the subject. It was supposed to be an historical monument, but is now judged by the best authorities to have been a tomb, presumably that of Pericles, King of Lycia, who conquered the people of Telemessos about 350-360, B.C. The model is in the Nereid Room of the British Museum.

The Kimberley design was chosen by a specially appointed Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Rhodes, and the imposing structure is built of stone brought from the Matoppo Mountains in Rhodesia. The Memorial is 52 feet high, over 2,000 tons in weight, and the cost of its erection, borne partly by public subscription, was more than £10,000. Two bronze tablets, designed by Mr. Lockwood Kipling, are set into the stonework of the Memorial. On one of these are inscribed the names of the 42 defenders who were killed during the Siege, and the other shows the big gun, "Long Cecil," with a portrayal of Mr. G. F. Labram standing close by. Deeply cut in the stone on the West side are the lines specially written by Mr. Rudyard Kipling:—

This for a charge to our children, in sign of the price we paid,

The price that we paid for freedom, that comes unsoiled to your hand;

Read, revere, and uncover: here are the victors laid:

They who died for the City, being sons of the land.

On the stylobate of the Memorial stands the gun "Long Cecil," built in the De Beers Workshops during the Siege. The remains of twenty-seven of Kimberley's honoured dead repose in the vault within the Memorial.

The dedication of the Memorial took place on the 28th November, 1904, the 5th anniversary of the day on which Colonel Henry Scott-Turner and his little band fought so gallantly, and suffered so terribly at Carter's Ridge.



Honoured Dead Memorial, Kimberley.

### The Memorial's Surroundings.

From the summit of the Memorial it will be observed that the Memorial is situated on the highest point of the surrounding land, and in the middle of a circle 200 feet in diameter. The circle is outlined with a substantial kerbing of hammer-dressed stone. Five well-made roads diverge from the circle in various directions, lined by rows of trees on either side. These roads were constructed during the Siege, in order to afford employment to natives, Asiatics and other non-combatants, as many as 3,500 men being employed at one time on the work.

#### Interesting Outlook.

Places which can be seen from the top of the Memorial include several of the Kimberley battle-fields—Carter's Ridge, Dronfield, Susannah Kop, the Free State hills, etc.; also the railway line to Bloemfontein, the electric tramway line to Alexandersfontein (a pleasure resort six miles from the City), the Agricultural Show Grounds, the Wesselson Mine, the new Boys' High School, Reservoir, Christian Brothers' College, Pirates' Club, Golf Course, etc.





Cape Police Monument in the Belgravia Park.

The Cape Police played an important part in every engagement during the Siege, rendering invaluable service. Detachments consisting of 100 men and 30 men respectively, underwent great hardships in forced and circuitous marches in order to assist in the defence of Kimberley. The former marched from far-away Bechuanaland in the north, and the latter from Upington in the west. The cannon shown in front of the memorial was captured in a fight at Dronfield, near Kimberley, on the 16th February, 1900.



"The Cairn," Carter's Ridge.





The Hotel Belgrave, Kimberley.

A first-class hotel, replete with every convenience. Unsurpassed in South Africa for comfort, luxury and style ; standing in its own grounds of over 150 acres.



Alexandersfontein Hotel.

Looking across the grassy terraces.

## Visitors' Guide.

### WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO SEE IN KIMBERLEY.

The following short guide will assist visitors in finding their way to various places of interest in the City:—

Agricultural Show Grounds.

Alexandersfontein: Trams to and fro every hour.

Beaconsfield: Trams to and fro every 20 minutes.

Beaconsfield Churches:—

All Saints, Beaconsfield Market Square.

St. Augustine's (R.C.), Rectory Street.

St. Andrew's (Presbyterian), Hercules Street.

Wesleyan, Neale Street.

Beaconsfield Park.

„ Town Hall.

„ Public Library.

„ "Empire" Electric Theatre.

„ Workmen's Institute, and fine Swimming Bath.

Baptist Church, Du Toit's Pan Road.

Beit Memorial, Garden of Public Library, Du Toit's Pan Road.

Belgravia Park, off Lodge Road.

Bowling Greens: Public Gardens and Kimberley Mine.

Boys' High Schools, Memorial Hill.

City Hall and Market Buildings, Market Square.

Cape Police Memorials, Belgravia Park.

Christian Brothers' College, Du Toit's Pan Road.

Carter's Ridge, the War Memorial Cairn.

De Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd. (Offices), Stockdale Street.

Diamond Market, with its many buildings of old-time Kimberley.

Drill Hall, Public Gardens.

Fire Brigade Station, Stockdale Street.

Government Buildings, Market Square.

Girls' High School, Belgravia.

Golf Course, Memorial Hill.



Honoured Dead Memorial and "Long Cecil," the famous Siege gun, Memorial Road.

Hospital, Du Toit's Pan Road.

Hotel Belgrave, near Halfway House, Du Toit's Pan Road.

Jewish Synagogue, Memorial Road.

Kenilworth: Trams to and fro every twenty minutes.

Kimberley Club, Du Toit's Pan Road.

Kimberley Open Mine, 1,200 feet deep, Old Main Street.

Ladies' Hostel, Lennox Street.

Morning Market, Market Square.

Masonic Temple, Du Toit's Pan Road.

McGregor Memorial Museum, Chapel Street.

Nazareth House, Du Toit's Pan Road.

Newton Home (D.R. Church), Lawson Street.

Olympia *al fresco* Picture Palace (open during summer), Currey Street.

Pirates' Club, Memorial Hill.

Public Gardens: Enclosed flower gardens, football and cricket grounds, tennis and croquet lawns, bowling green, etc.

Public Library, Du Toit's Pan Road, open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Police Station (for enquiries, etc.), Transvaal Road.

Post Office (Central), Market Square.

Presbyterian Church, New Main Street.

Queen Victoria Statue, Public Gardens.

Rhodes Memorial Statue, Du Toit's Pan Road.

Railway Station and Divisional Superintendent's Office, Florence Road.

St. Cyprian's (Anglican) Cathedral, Du Toit's Pan Road.

St. Mary's (R.C.) Cathedral, Du Toit's Pan Road.

Shopping centre, principally Du Toit's Pan Road and Jones Street.

Theatre Royal, Du Toit's Pan Road.

Trinity Wesleyan Church, Chapel Street.

Trocadero Picture Palace, Du Toit's Pan Road.

Vaudette Theatre, Jones Street.

The picnic resorts are Modder River and "The Bend," and Riverton, on the Vaal River. Famous battlefields within easy reach of the City by train, or motor-car, include Magersfontein, Paardeberg, Carter's Ridge, and Dronfield.

